

# 2017 WISCONSIN BIG GAME and TURKEY HARVEST SUMMARY



Several deer taken in 1903 near Oxbo, Price County. That year, an estimated 78,154 firearm deer hunting licenses were sold. Photo: DNR file.

**DEER | BEAR | TURKEY**

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**JUNE 2018**





## 2018 Deer, Bear and Turkey Seasons

### 2018 Deer Hunting Season Dates

Bow & Crossbow:	Sept. 15 – Jan. 6, 2019
Bow & Crossbow (metro):	Sept. 15 – Jan. 31, 2019
Youth Deer Hunt:	Oct. 6 & 7
Disabled Hunt:	Oct. 6 – 14
9-day Gun Hunt:	Nov. 17 – 25
Gun Hunt (metro):	Nov. 17 – Dec. 5
Muzzleloader:	Nov. 26 – Dec. 5
December antlerless-only:	Dec. 6 – 9
December Holiday Hunt:	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2019

### 2018 Bear Hunting Season Dates

Zone C: <i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 5 – Oct. 9
Zones A, B and D: <i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 5 – 11
<i>With aid of dogs, bait or other legal methods</i>	Sept. 12 – Oct. 2
<i>With aid of dogs only</i>	Oct. 3 – 9

### 2018 Turkey Hunting Season Dates

Youth Turkey Hunt:	April 14 & 15	Fall Season:	Zones 1 – 5 = Sept. 15 – Jan. 6, 2019
Spring Season:	A = April 18 – 24 B = April 25 – May 1 C = May 2 – 8 D = May 9 – 15 E = May 16 – 22 F = May 23 – 29		Zone 6 & 7 = Sept. 15 – Nov. 16

## 2017 Deer, Bear and Turkey Seasons

### 2017 Deer Hunting Season Dates

Bow & Crossbow:	Sept. 16 – Jan. 7, 2018
Bow & Crossbow (metro):	Sept. 16 – Jan. 31, 2018
Youth Deer Hunt:	Oct. 7 & 8
Disabled Hunt:	Oct. 7 – 15
9-day Gun Hunt:	Nov. 18 – 26
Gun Hunt (metro):	Nov. 18 – Dec. 6
Muzzleloader:	Nov. 27 – Dec. 6
December antlerless-only:	Dec. 7 – 10
December Holiday Hunt:	Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2018

### 2017 Bear Hunting Season Dates

Zone C: <i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Sept. 6 – Oct. 10
Zones A, B and D: <i>With aid of dogs only</i>	Sept. 6 – 12
<i>With aid of dogs, bait or other legal methods</i>	Sept. 13 – Oct. 3
<i>With aid of bait and other legal methods not utilizing dogs</i>	Oct. 4 – 10

### 2017 Turkey Hunting Season Dates

Youth Turkey Hunt:	April 15 & 16	Fall Season:	Zones 1 – 5 = Sept. 16 – Dec. 31
Spring Season:	A = April 19 – 25 B = April 26 – May 2 C = May 3 – 9 D = May 10 – 16 E = May 17 – 23 F = May 24 – 30		Zone 6 & 7 = Sept. 16 – Nov. 17

### The 2017 Big Game Harvest Summary

#### Volume 28 – Issue 1

#### Deer, Bear and Turkey

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NO WOLF SEASON IN 2017

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# The 2017 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Summary

By Brian Dhuey and Kevin Wallenfang

## 2017 Season Highlights

### Bow Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	13,489	11,958	0	25,447
Central Forest	1,386	431	0	1,817
Northern Forest	4,474	2,585	0	7,059
Southern Farmland	6,459	4,384	0	10,843
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,808</b>	<b>19,358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,166</b>

### Crossbow Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	13,716	12,505	0	26,221
Central Forest	1,611	561	0	2,172
Northern Forest	7,453	3,715	0	11,168
Southern Farmland	4,626	3,041	0	7,667
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,406</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,228</b>

### Firearm Totals

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total <sup>a</sup>
Central Farmland	52,100	73,220	22	125,342
Central Forest	5,255	3,414	1	8,670
Northern Forest	28,219	18,484	6	46,709
Southern Farmland	20,024	26,883	17	46,924
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,598</b>	<b>122,001</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>227,645</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes damage deer

### Tribal Totals

Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
724	1,050	0	1,774

### Grand Totals

Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
159,536	162,231	46	321,813

## **Abstract**

This report summarizes the results of the 2017 Wisconsin bow, crossbow, youth, 9-day firearm, muzzleloader, December antlerless only, Holiday Hunt antlerless only, and Chippewa off-reservation deer harvest. All harvest statistics are from kill registration data. Since 1953, the Department of Natural Resources has required that Wisconsin hunters register all deer harvested. The Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided permit information. Joseph Dittrich and Daniel Storm of the Office of Applied Science summarized data collected from deer aging stations and Brenda Von Rueden of the Bureau of Law Enforcement provided the hunting accident report. The Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) provided all Chippewa deer harvest data. This report is possible due to Pittman-Robertson funds.

## **Registration**

The 2017 deer season was the third year of electronic registration of deer kill by all hunters, and the second year of full implementation. A unique 10-digit number was assigned to each carcass tag issued to a hunter, both antlerless and antlered. This tag number is the starting point of all registrations and allows for much of the known information about the animal and location to be filled in automatically. Hunters were still required to register all deer harvested, but no longer required to bring them in person to a registration station. Methods included phone-in, internet, or “smart phone” to collect registration data. Over 200 in-person stations still allowed hunters to register deer and provided them with one or more of the methods that were available to do so.

New in 2017 was the elimination of deer carcass tags. Hunters were no longer required to place any type of tag on the harvested deer at any time. While hunting, customers were required to carry proof they were authorized to hunt within the designated location for the type of deer that the season was open for. Hunters could use their paper tag/authorization, DNR issued Conservation Card, a GoWild validated Wisconsin driver's license, or a GoWild digital file as proof of compliance. All harvested deer were still required to be registered within 24 hours of recovery but they no longer were required to validate the tag in any way, write the confirmation number on the tag to validate, nor retain the tag until the meat was consumed.

Also new in 2017 just prior to the opening of the 9-day firearm deer season was the elimination of the age requirement (10 years) to purchase a hunting license in the state. All ages were legal to hunt in Wisconsin, with those under the age of 12 and those who have not completed a hunter safety course being required to have a mentor of at least 18 years old always within arm's reach while they hunt.

## **Season Structure**

Since the implementation of the Deer Trustee Report recommendations in 2014, the state has been divided into four deer management zones (DMZ) from north to south and designated as, Northern Forest, Central Forest, Central Farmland, and Southern Farmland (Figure 1). Deer management units in these management zones are based on county boundaries inside the zone. Most counties are now their own management unit with a few exceptions for areas where DMZ's cross county boundaries or tribal reservation boundaries were used to develop their own units. Metro areas within these new unit boundaries are now sub-units of the larger county management unit. These sub-units were subject to longer seasons and may have been eligible for additional antlerless permits that were not valid in the rest of the unit.

A continuous bow and crossbow season ran from mid-September through early January. Firearm seasons included a statewide youth firearm deer season in October, a traditional 9-day firearm deer season in November, a 10-day statewide muzzleloader season, a statewide antlerless only 4-day hunt in mid-December, and in select units an antlerless only Holiday Hunt starting the day before Christmas.

### **Permits**

All hunters could harvest one buck statewide per weapon authority purchased. Bow and crossbow hunters that purchased an upgrade authority to use either weapon were only allowed to harvest one buck with either weapon per season.

Free antlerless permit(s) were issued with each weapon authority purchased. These permits allowed the harvest of antlerless deer in any unit in the farmland DMZ's. At the time of issuance, the license purchaser had to declare a farmland DMZ, unit, and landownership type (public or private) they wanted the tag to be valid for. The number of permits available for counties in the farmland zones ranged from 0 to 5, depending on the county. Additional antlerless permits could be purchased for both the farmland and forested DMZ's. These permits were sold over-the-counter on a first-come, first-served basis at a cost of \$12 each. The purchaser had to designate the zone, unit and land type (private or public) for which they were purchasing the permit. Permits available were limited in many zone, unit, and land types, with 3 units in the Northern Forest DMZ and one in the Central Forest DMZ having no antlerless permits available (Tables 1&2). Deer hunters who were hunting under a youth license were issued an additional antlerless tag with each license purchased that allowed the harvest of an antlerless deer in any unit, even if the unit had no antlerless tags available to the non-youth hunting public. County Deer Advisory Councils could recommend that even these youth antlerless tags not be valid in the unit; no counties did not allow the harvest of antlerless deer on a statewide youth antlerless tag in 2017.

Select metro sub-units had additional tags available both as free metro sub-unit tags and as bonus (\$12/tag) tags. These tags were valid only in the portion of the unit that was defined as the metro sub-unit and were valid during any open metro season.

### **Bow/Crossbow Season**

The bow and crossbow seasons were held from 16 September - 7 January, 114 consecutive days of hunting. As had begun in 2014, crossbows were legal for all ages of hunters, but required a separate license. Prior to 2014 only hunters who could document a disability or were 65 years or older were eligible to use a crossbow. Hunters could use both vertical bows and crossbows during the season if they purchased an "upgrade" license for \$3. They were still limited to one buck per hunter regardless of weapon type used to harvest it. Bow and crossbow seasons remained open during all concurrent firearm hunts, and all hunters, regardless of weapon being used, are required to wear blaze orange/pink clothing during any open firearm deer season and restricted to the same deer type as firearm hunters.

In most management units, bow and crossbow hunters could harvest one antlered and multiple antlerless deer during the season. As in recent years, bow and crossbow hunters were restricted to "Bucks Only" in units that restricted firearm hunters to "Bucks Only" as well. Bow and crossbow hunters could harvest additional antlerless deer using free Farmland Zone antlerless deer permit(s), or purchase additional antlerless deer permits in units that allowed the taking of extra antlerless deer.

Six metropolitan sub-units were designated in the state that allowed bow and crossbow hunters additional opportunity to kill deer by keeping the season open until 31 January. Hunters in most sub-units used the same Farmland Zone or bonus antlerless permits that were available in the larger deer management unit. Like firearm hunters, bow and crossbow hunters could purchase additional antlerless permits throughout the season or until all were sold.

Wisconsin bowhunters killed 45,166 deer in 2017. Crossbow hunters killed 47,228 deer. The combined harvest was 92,394; this is up from the combined harvest of 88,048 killed in 2016. Normal amounts of precipitation and much above normal temperatures greeted hunters during the first month of the season. The months of October and November brought more above average temperatures with normal to slightly below normal precipitation. Early December was normal to above for temperatures and normal for precipitation, with little snow cover in much of the state until the middle of the month when snow and more normal temperatures arrived. Weather events during bow/crossbow season were fairly limited, but temperatures during late September and the first week of October were much above average, and may have affected hunting behavior and reduced deer movement. Bow and crossbow hunter pressure is at its highest during the rut and many successful hunts occurred during this period with little for weather events that should have effected hunting. Overall, weather conditions for hunting were quite good throughout most of the season for bow and crossbow hunters and should have not adversely affected success. A summary of the bow and crossbow deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Figures 6-9 and Tables 13-16.

## **Firearm Seasons**

### **October**

A statewide youth deer hunt was held on the 7-8th of October. All persons from 10-15 years of age were eligible to hunt (the restriction on age to purchase a license had yet to be lifted). Mentored hunting was introduced to the state in 2009, this allowed anyone age 10 or older to hunt without a Hunter's Education certification as long as they hunted with an 18-year-old or older mentor. All youth who were mentored or possessed a Hunter's Education certification card and a firearm deer license were eligible to hunt. The bag limit was one buck and additional antlerless deer with the appropriate carcass tag(s). All youth deer license holders were issued a free antlerless permit, which were valid in all units. Heavy rain covered much of the state for some or all of both days of the youth season and may have effected success. A total of 6,927 deer were killed by youth during these two days (Table 7 and Figure 4). A special firearm hunt for disabled hunters was held on sponsor landowners' properties, a deer of either sex was legal from 7-15 October.

### **November**

Wisconsin held the 2017 regular 9-day firearm deer season during 18-26 November. Rifles were allowed in most of the state, but local governments could restrict their discharge in their jurisdictions. Firearm license holders were issued one antlered deer tag valid statewide and 0-5 antlerless deer tag(s) that was restricted for use in the Farmland DMZ deer unit and land type of their choice (public and private). Many units in all DMZ's offered additional bonus antlerless tags that were specific to land type and were sold for \$12 on a first-come, first-served basis.

For the second year in a row, firearm hunters in much of the state were greeted with high winds on opening day. The southern third also saw snow and/or rainfall for most of the morning of opening day, while the rest of the state was windy, gray and cloudy. Only the northern third of the state had snow on the ground for opening day, as much of the rest of the state was

snowless, with only a few pockets of snow cover in other locations. While high winds made for difficult conditions for hunters hearing and seeing deer, overall conditions were better than on opening day in 2016. Saturday's rain/snow likely impacted harvest in areas where it fell. Sunday morning's weather saw normal temperatures and much reduced wind gusts which made for more hunt-able conditions. Temperatures stayed about average to above during much of the remaining part of the week with little to no precipitation. This made for excellent hunting conditions for those who ventured out. The statewide corn harvest was well below average in most of the state with all parts of the state having some standing corn during the season. Snow or rain should not have affected hunters' ability to access remote locations during the season, although many marshland areas remained unfrozen, limiting hunter access to wetlands. Sales of firearm deer licenses in 2017 were down from the previous year. Overall hunting conditions as ranked by hunters, was ranked a qualitative 7 on a scale of 1 to 10. This is in comparison to a 6 in 2016.

Again this year, at the time of registration, hunters rated the weather on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the worst, number of deer seen and hours hunted. Mean weather ranking for the opening day of the 9-day firearm season was 6.5, higher than last year's 4.4, but lower than the best ranking of 7.1 of 2012. Prior years have varied from 4 to 7 with 4.7 in 2015, 6.5 in 2014, 4.2 in 2013, 7.1 in 2012, 6.0 in 2011, 6.6 in 2010, and 6.1 in 2009; all years except 2014 and 2017 were different at the  $p < 0.05$  level. The weather ranking for the rest of the season was 7.3, the highest to date, and higher than the 7.1 in 2016, 5.1 in 2015, the 6.0 in 2014, 6.2 in 2013, 6.7 in 2012, 6.6 in 2011, 5.6 in 2010 and 6.2 in 2009; all years were different at the  $p \leq 0.05$  level.

The number of deer seen per hour hunted for opening day was 1.07. This was significantly ( $p \leq .05$ ) lower than last year's 1.17, and lower than the 1.18 in 2015, 1.10 in 2014, and 1.09 in 2013, like the 1.08 in 2010, and significantly higher than the 1.02 of 2012, 0.96 of 2011, and 0.79 of 2009. Deer seen per hour for the rest of the 9-day season was 1.11, lower than the 1.15 in 2016, 1.18 in 2015, and the 1.20 in 2014, but higher than the 1.08 in 2013, 1.02 in 2012, 0.96 in 2011, 1.03 in 2010 and 0.80 in 2009; all years were different ( $p \leq .05$ ). Please note that these rankings are for successful hunters only, and are probably biased by that fact.

Metro deer sub-units' firearm deer season opened on 18 November and was open for 21 days (running through 6 December). The bag limit was one antlered deer for the length of the season. Additional antlerless deer tags were available for purchase that allowed hunters to bag additional antlerless deer.

### **December**

All DMZ's in the state were open for muzzleloader-only hunting from 27 November - 6 December. Any unused harvest authorization, both antlered and antlerless, could be used during this time. Only hunters possessing or accompanying someone with an unused harvest authorization could take part in the muzzleloader season. Muzzleloaders were allowed to have scopes with a magnification of greater than 1X.

Wisconsin held a statewide antlerless only firearm season from 7-10 December. All hunters with an unfilled antlerless deer authorization could take part in the season. This season allowed hunters who were unable to fill their antlerless tags during the 9-day and muzzleloader seasons another chance to kill an antlerless deer.

County Deer Advisory Councils had the ability to recommend a Holiday Hunt on a unit-by-unit basis in 2017. Seventeen councils recommended a Holiday Hunt, 13 in 2016. These units

were in the Central and Southern Farmland DMZ. The season was for antlerless deer only and was held from 24 December through 1 January.

Hunting conditions for the December seasons were mostly favorable early but cold late. Most of December had average to above temperatures early in the month, with most of the state receiving some snowfall mid-December. While snow was welcome and depths did not hinder hunter access and made deer more visible, bitter cold conditions during the Holiday hunt made sitting for long periods difficult, and may have reduced hunt participation.

The 2017 deer harvest of 320,039 deer killed by Wisconsin licensed hunters was the 25<sup>th</sup> highest kill total in the last 84 years (316,744 in 2016; 1<sup>st</sup> 2000 = 615,293, 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007 = 518,573) during the bow, crossbow, youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, and December and Holiday Hunt antlerless seasons combined. Only once in the past 25 years has the total deer harvest for Wisconsin fallen below 300,000 (1993). A summary of youth, 9-day, muzzleloader, December antlerless, and holiday deer harvest by deer management unit is contained in Table 5-7, and Figures 2-4, respectively.

### **Agricultural Damage Shooting Program**

Wisconsin's agricultural damage deer shooting program was in effect for 2017. In 2017, the Department issued 531 agriculture damage deer shooting permits in 65 counties. The number of deer shooting permits issued in 2017 increased from 2016 when 506 permits were issued in 64 counties. There are two types of deer shooting permits agriculture producers can choose from; permits that require the producer to allow public hunting access during the state deer hunting season, under this option producers are eligible for deer damage compensations; and permits that do not require the producer to allow public hunting access but producers are not eligible for deer damage compensation. Of the two permits types, 232 deer shooting permits were issued where public deer hunting access was required on property the producer owns or leases and 299 deer shooting permits were issued where public hunting access was not required on the property the producer owns or leases.

The number of shooting permits issued each year for the last 10 years are as follows:

2008 - 713 permits in 66 counties	2013 - 618 permits in 65 counties
2009 - 611 permits in 66 counties	2014 - 617 Permits in 67 counties
2010 - 501 permits in 62 counties	2015 - 542 Permits in 64 counties
2011 - 484 permits in 64 counties	2016 - 506 Permits in 64 counties
2012 - 521 permits in 67 counties	2017 - 531 Permits in 65 counties

Damage permits were primarily valid for harvesting antlerless deer using a firearm (occasional exceptions are made to harvest antlered deer or to use archery equipment for harvest). A total of 4,288 deer were harvested under authority of this program; nearly all (4,115) were antlerless. Data from past years has shown that less than 5% of the damage deer are killed with archery tackle. Because of this, all damage deer are assumed to be killed by firearm hunters and are in the 9-day harvest totals. Tables 9 & 10 summarize deer harvest in the agricultural damage shooting program.

### **Chippewa Deer Harvest**

Deer hunting in the off-reservation portions of the ceded territory by the tribes of the Lake Superior Chippewa took place from 1 September to 31 December. The Tribes harvested 1,774 deer in 2017. Tribal totals are not included in the statewide firearm harvest totals in this report, but used in calculating population estimates for each of the units that have tribal harvest. The

total Tribal deer harvest by year is in Table 11. A summary of the 2017 Tribal deer harvest by management unit is contained in Table 12. Other off-reservation treaty harvest information can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

### **CWD Harvest**

With the Deer Trustee Report implementation, the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management zone has been eliminated and is now referred to as CWD affected area. These boundaries match the counties that prohibit baiting and feeding (28 counties in 2017). A county is included if a wild or captive animal has been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD in the county or if a portion of the county that is within a 10-mile radius of where the animal that had been tested and confirmed to be positive for CWD.

Special seasons or extensions of seasons no longer exist as had in the past. Season length and bagging rates were like the rest of the state. The “bonus buck” provision that had allowed the taking of additional antlered deer if an antlerless deer was killed first was discontinued in 2015, with all prior issued bonus buck stickers expiring on 31 March 2015.

**Table 1. Farmland and bonus antlerless permit availability, issuance, harvest, and success by deer management zone, unit and land type for 2017.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Farmland Tags available per License	Farmland Tags Issued	Antlerless Deer Tagged with Farmland Tag	Farmland Tag Success	Bonus Antlerless Tags Available	Bonus Antlerless Tags Issued	Antlerless Deer Tagged with Bonus Tag	Bonus Tag Success
Central Farmland	Adams	Public	1/License	1,783	110	6.2%	50	50	10	20.0%
Central Farmland	Adams	Private	1/License	5,716	597	10.4%	900	479	92	19.2%
Central Farmland	Barron	Public	1/License	3,688	464	12.6%	900	682	116	17.0%
Central Farmland	Barron	Private	1/License	12,417	2,201	17.7%	8,100	2,047	516	25.2%
Central Farmland	Brown	Public	2/License	3,551	174	4.9%	100	100	10	10.0%
Central Farmland	Brown	Private	2/License	14,671	1,162	7.9%	1,000	361	43	11.9%
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Public	3/License	2,700	139	5.1%	250	157	15	9.6%
Central Farmland	Buffalo	Private	3/License	34,284	3,546	10.3%	1,500	752	153	20.3%
Central Farmland	Calumet	Public	1/License	1,136	97	8.5%	100	101	13	12.9%
Central Farmland	Calumet	Private	1/License	3,578	478	13.4%	400	359	62	17.3%
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Public	None available							
Central Farmland	Chippewa	Private	None available					5,000	4,999	1,436 28.7%
Central Farmland	Clark	Public	1/License	3,372	353	10.5%	50	50	13	26.0%
Central Farmland	Clark	Private	1/License	13,243	2,277	17.2%	1,150	1,150	328	28.5%
Central Farmland	Door	Public	5/License	8,273	315	3.8%	500	115	12	10.4%
Central Farmland	Door	Private	5/License	37,612	2,614	6.9%	1,500	257	32	12.5%
Central Farmland	Dunn	Public	1/License	3,257	394	12.1%	500	547	100	18.3%
Central Farmland	Dunn	Private	1/License	13,204	2,398	18.2%	2,100	1,954	454	23.2%
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Public	1/License	3,066	206	6.7%	0			
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	Private	1/License	8,139	967	11.9%	0			
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	Public	1/License	4,051	317	7.8%	75	76	8	10.5%
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	Private	1/License	9,474	1,391	14.7%	0			
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Public	2/License	2,768	136	4.9%	500	263	24	9.1%
Central Farmland	Green Lake	Private	2/License	12,810	1,527	11.9%	1,000	360	84	23.3%
Central Farmland	Jackson	Public	1/License	2,809	206	7.3%				
Central Farmland	Jackson	Private	1/License	9,878	1,603	16.2%	2,325	1,416	309	21.8%
Central Farmland	Juneau	Public	1/License	1,494	102	6.8%	25	25	4	16.0%
Central Farmland	Juneau	Private	1/License	7,325	878	12.0%	1,050	950	155	16.3%
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Public	3/License	2,609	175	6.7%	300	59	6	10.2%
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	Private	3/License	19,345	1,946	10.1%	1,100	160	21	13.1%
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Public	1/License	1,063	77	7.2%	175	207	19	9.2%
Central Farmland	La Crosse	Private	1/License	7,473	1,104	14.8%	850	684	148	21.6%
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Public	2/License	4,193	243	5.8%	300	182	21	11.5%
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	Private	2/License	19,811	1,894	9.6%	2,000	406	78	19.2%
Central Farmland	Marathon	Public	1/License	7,170	817	11.4%				
Central Farmland	Marathon	Private	1/License	26,947	4,531	16.8%				
Central Farmland	Marinette	Public	2/License	8,909	515	5.8%	250	250	37	14.8%
Central Farmland	Marinette	Private	2/License	23,473	1,947	8.3%	2,750	790	131	16.6%
Central Farmland	Marquette	Public	3/License	7,017	316	4.5%	2,000	320	30	9.4%
Central Farmland	Marquette	Private	3/License	32,742	2,676	8.2%	8,000	580	95	16.4%
Central Farmland	Mccoys	Public	None available							
Central Farmland	Mccoys	Private	None available							
Central Farmland	Monroe	Public	1/License	2,977	272	9.1%	400	509	61	12.0%
Central Farmland	Monroe	Private	1/License	12,422	2,049	16.5%	1,350	1,258	303	24.1%
Central Farmland	Oconto	Public	2/License	10,365	514	5.0%	200	200	17	8.5%
Central Farmland	Oconto	Private	2/License	27,321	2,582	9.5%	2,075	709	100	14.1%
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Public	2/License	4,465	222	5.0%	500	237	16	6.8%
Central Farmland	Outagamie	Private	2/License	19,389	1,706	8.8%	1,000	488	87	17.8%

**Table 1. Farmland and bonus antlerless permit availability, issuance, harvest, and success by deer management zone, unit and land type for 2017.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Farmland	Antlerless	Farmland	Farmland	Bonus	Bonus	Antlerless	Bonus Tag	Success
			Tags available per License	Farmland Tags Issued		Tag Success	Antlerless Tags Available	Antlerless Tags Issued	Deer Tagged with Bonus Tag		
Central Farmland	Pepin	Public	2/License	1,170	87	7.4%	150	134	14		10.4%
Central Farmland	Pepin	Private	2/License	6,948	1,045	15.0%	900	272	54		19.9%
Central Farmland	Pierce	Public	2/License	2,082	115	5.5%	400	142	17		12.0%
Central Farmland	Pierce	Private	2/License	16,228	1,901	11.7%	2,200	610	122		20.0%
Central Farmland	Polk	Public	2/License	10,387	1,015	9.8%	600	557	99		17.8%
Central Farmland	Polk	Private	2/License	29,773	3,623	12.2%	5,200	1,089	216		19.8%
Central Farmland	Portage	Public	1/License	2,942	323	11.0%	300	301	61		20.3%
Central Farmland	Portage	Private	1/License	12,527	2,062	16.5%	1,500	1,568	343		21.9%
Central Farmland	St. Croix	Public	2/License	4,705	232	4.9%	300	210	23		11.0%
Central Farmland	St. Croix	Private	2/License	16,113	1,318	8.2%	2,000	461	83		18.0%
Central Farmland	Shawano	Public	3/License	10,599	494	4.7%	750	269	23		8.6%
Central Farmland	Shawano	Private	3/License	59,631	5,057	8.5%	3,450	688	111		16.1%
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Public	1/License	4,108	247	6.0%	250	251	36		14.3%
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	Private	1/License	6,476	733	11.3%	700	829	128		15.4%
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Public	1/License	1,433	177	12.4%					
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	Private	1/License	12,405	2,474	19.9%	1,000	1,002	305		30.4%
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Public	3/License	8,955	390	4.4%	300	315	21		6.7%
Central Farmland	Waupaca	Private	3/License	65,673	5,616	8.6%	7,200	681	117		17.2%
Central Farmland	Waushara	Public	2/License	6,741	346	5.1%	600	463	35		7.6%
Central Farmland	Waushara	Private	2/License	26,077	2,291	8.8%	1,200	788	133		16.9%
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Public	1/License	1,445	96	6.6%	175	176	19		10.8%
Central Farmland	Winnebago	Private	1/License	5,616	645	11.5%	375	491	78		15.9%
Central Farmland	Wood	Public	1/License	2,435	218	9.0%					
Central Farmland	Wood	Private	1/License	9,507	1,500	15.8%					
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>				<b>785,966</b>	<b>80,243</b>		<b>81,875</b>	<b>35,586</b>	<b>7,197</b>		
Central Forest	Adams	Public	None available				1,500	1,505	230		15.3%
Central Forest	Adams	Private	None available				8,550	6,603	1,336		20.2%
Central Forest	Clark	Public	None available				825	828	243		29.3%
Central Forest	Clark	Private	None available				1,950	1,954	681		34.9%
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Public	None available								
Central Forest	Eau Claire	Private	None available								
Central Forest	Jackson	Public	None available				375	376	94		25.0%
Central Forest	Jackson	Private	None available				375	377	116		30.8%
Central Forest	Juneau	Public	None available				50	52	20		38.5%
Central Forest	Juneau	Private	None available				1,000	1,000	238		23.8%
Central Forest	Monroe	Public	None available								
Central Forest	Monroe	Private	None available				100	99	34		34.3%
Central Forest	Wood	Public	None available				25	25	7		28.0%
Central Forest	Wood	Private	None available				125	127	49		38.6%
<b>Central Forest Total</b>							<b>14,875</b>	<b>12,946</b>	<b>3,048</b>		
Northern Forest	Ashland	Public	None available								
Northern Forest	Ashland	Private	None available								
Northern Forest	Apostle Islands	Public	None available								
Northern Forest	Apostle Islands	Private	None available								
Northern Forest	Bad River	Public	None available								
Northern Forest	Bad River	Private	None available								
Northern Forest	Madeline Island	Public	None available				50	56	14		25.0%
Northern Forest	Madeline Island	Private	None available				175	66	33		50.0%
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Public	None available				2,725	2,730	829		30.4%
Northern Forest	Bayfield	Private	None available				4,425	4,136	1,333		32.2%

**Table 1. Farmland and bonus antlerless permit availability, issuance, harvest, and success by deer management zone, unit and land type for 2017.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Farmland Tags available per License	Farmland Tags Issued	Antlerless Deer Tagged with Farmland Tag	Farmland Tag Success	Bonus Antlerless Tags Available	Bonus Antlerless Tags Issued	Antlerless Deer Tagged with Bonus Tag	Bonus Tag Success
Northern Forest	Burnett	Public	None available				700	700	229	32.7%
Northern Forest	Burnett	Private	None available				7,800	6,375	1,913	30.0%
Northern Forest	Douglas	Public	None available				400	397	175	44.1%
Northern Forest	Douglas	Private	None available				600	602	300	49.8%
Northern Forest	Florence	Public	None available				1,000	1,004	381	37.9%
Northern Forest	Florence	Private	None available				1,000	1,001	434	43.4%
Northern Forest	Forest	Public	None available				400	400	132	33.0%
Northern Forest	Forest	Private	None available				400	400	147	36.8%
Northern Forest	Iron	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Iron	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Lac Corte Oreilles	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Lac Corte Oreilles	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Lac Du Flambeau	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Lac Du Flambeau	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Langlade	Public	None available				1,150	1,153	297	25.8%
Northern Forest	Langlade	Private	None available				4,575	4,730	1,269	26.8%
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Public	None available				600	600	166	27.7%
Northern Forest	Lincoln	Private	None available				5,400	5,671	1,374	24.2%
Northern Forest	Marinette	Public	None available				375	376	132	35.1%
Northern Forest	Marinette	Private	None available				1,300	1,308	498	38.1%
Northern Forest	Menominee	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Menominee	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Oconto	Public	None available				175	176	55	31.3%
Northern Forest	Oconto	Private	None available				375	375	108	28.8%
Northern Forest	Oneida	Public	None available				700	702	203	28.9%
Northern Forest	Oneida	Private	None available				1,700	1,703	666	39.1%
Northern Forest	Price	Public	None available				425	425	121	28.5%
Northern Forest	Price	Private	None available				2,000	2,004	741	37.0%
Northern Forest	Red Cliff	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Red Cliff	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Rusk	Public	None available				1,025	1,029	278	27.0%
Northern Forest	Rusk	Private	None available				5,800	6,360	1,897	29.8%
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Public	None available				550	550	157	28.5%
Northern Forest	Sawyer	Private	None available				2,175	2,181	782	35.9%
Northern Forest	Taylor	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Taylor	Private	None available				4,350	4,359	1,492	34.2%
Northern Forest	Vilas	Public	None available							
Northern Forest	Vilas	Private	None available							
Northern Forest	Washburn	Public	None available				2,875	3,201	799	25.0%
Northern Forest	Washburn	Private	None available				6,675	4,839	1,380	28.5%
<b>Northern Forest Total</b>							<b>61,900</b>	<b>59,609</b>	<b>18,335</b>	
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Public	2/License	5,433	300	5.5%	1,000	459	36	7.8%
Southern Farmland	Columbia	Private	2/License	21,424	2,092	9.8%	2,000	682	145	21.3%
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Public	2/License	3,118	243	7.8%				
Southern Farmland	Crawford	Private	2/License	16,572	1,703	10.3%	2,800	560	78	13.9%
Southern Farmland	Dane	Public	1/License	2,317	130	5.6%	700	544	51	9.4%
Southern Farmland	Dane	Private	1/License	9,359	1,066	11.4%	2,500	1,054	177	16.8%
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Public	1/License	2,920	250	8.6%	125	125	27	21.6%
Southern Farmland	Dodge	Private	1/License	10,009	1,461	14.6%	1,325	1,459	250	17.1%
Southern Farmland	Grant	Public	3/License	4,762	256	5.4%	350	198	23	11.6%

**Table 1. Farmland and bonus antlerless permit availability, issuance, harvest, and success by deer management zone, unit and land type for 2017.**

			Antlerless							
Deer Management Zone	County	Land Type	Farmland	Deer Tagged		Bonus	Bonus	Antlerless	Bonus Tag	
			Tags available per License	Farmland Tags Issued	with Farmland Tag	Farmland Tag Success	Antlerless Tags Available	Antlerless Tags Issued		Deer Tagged with Bonus Tag
Southern Farmland	Grant	Private	3/License	33,806	2,979	8.8%	4,000	586	117	20.0%
Southern Farmland	Green	Public	2/License	1,609	102	6.3%	300	176	15	8.5%
Southern Farmland	Green	Private	2/License	10,197	993	9.7%	1,750	410	58	14.1%
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Public	2/License	2,807	174	6.2%	650	373	36	9.7%
Southern Farmland	Iowa	Private	2/License	17,629	1,885	10.7%	3,000	690	139	20.1%
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Public	1/License	2,400	169	7.0%	0			
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	Private	1/License	6,817	808	11.9%	500	500	90	18.0%
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Public	1/License	1,018	32	3.1%				
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	Private	1/License	1,782	105	5.9%				
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Public	1/License	631	69	10.9%	125	138	27	19.6%
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	Private	1/License	4,560	774	17.0%	1,125	633	158	25.0%
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Public	2/License	156	2	1.3%	75	35	2	5.7%
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	Private	2/License	880	78	8.9%	600	90	9	10.0%
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Public	2/License	1,464	68	4.6%	300	160	11	6.9%
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	Private	2/License	5,848	456	7.8%	700	340	44	12.9%
Southern Farmland	Racine	Public	1/License	881	12	1.4%				
Southern Farmland	Racine	Private	1/License	2,579	148	5.7%				
Southern Farmland	Richland	Public	4/License	4,563	208	4.6%	500	173	19	11.0%
Southern Farmland	Richland	Private	4/License	38,409	2,507	6.5%	5,000	461	85	18.4%
Southern Farmland	Rock	Public	1/License	1,590	68	4.3%	400	426	25	5.9%
Southern Farmland	Rock	Private	1/License	5,437	628	11.6%	1,000	760	97	12.8%
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Public	2/License	5,135	322	6.3%	750	462	53	11.5%
Southern Farmland	Sauk	Private	2/License	24,779	2,690	10.9%	3,800	729	136	18.7%
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Public	2/License	3,989	370	9.3%	100	102	16	15.7%
Southern Farmland	Vernon	Private	2/License	24,875	2,997	12.0%	1,200	783	160	20.4%
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Public	1/License	2,039	82	4.0%	200	200	20	10.0%
Southern Farmland	Walworth	Private	1/License	3,559	365	10.3%	275	276	45	16.3%
Southern Farmland	Washington	Public	1/License	2,762	161	5.8%	400	401	44	11.0%
Southern Farmland	Washington	Private	1/License	7,654	936	12.2%	1,350	1,134	195	17.2%
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Public	1/License	3,273	111	3.4%	750	969	57	5.9%
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	Private	1/License	5,398	514	9.5%	1,850	892	127	14.2%
Southern Farmland Total				304,440	28,314		41,500	16,980	2,572	
Grand Total				1,090,406	108,557		200,150	125,121	31,152	

**Table 2. Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2017 season.**

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Bonus Permits Available	(Bonus+Farmland) Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Central Farmland	Adams	1,400	950	8,028	865	61.79%
Central Farmland	Barron	6,800	9,000	18,834	3,584	52.71%
Central Farmland	Brown	3,300	1,100	18,683	1,628	49.33%
Central Farmland	Buffalo	6,000	1,750	37,893	4,099	68.32%
Central Farmland	Calumet	1,480	500	5,174	706	47.70%
Central Farmland	Chippewa	2,000	5,000	4,999	1,904	95.20%
Central Farmland	Clark	4,400	1,200	17,815	3,249	73.84%
Central Farmland	Door	6,500	2,000	46,257	3,200	49.23%
Central Farmland	Dunn	6,830	2,600	18,962	3,706	54.26%
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	2,550		11,205	1,284	50.35%
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	2,500	75	13,601	1,951	78.04%
Central Farmland	Green Lake	4,140	1,500	16,201	2,079	50.22%
Central Farmland	Jackson	5,000	2,325	14,103	2,316	46.32%
Central Farmland	Juneau	1,350	1,075	9,794	1,221	90.44%
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	4,750	1,400	22,173	2,300	48.42%
Central Farmland	La Crosse	2,900	1,025	9,427	1,840	63.45%
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	5,000	2,300	24,592	2,408	48.16%
Central Farmland	Marathon	6,500		34,117	6,020	92.62%
Central Farmland	Marinette	3,000	3,000	33,422	2,884	96.13%
Central Farmland	Marquette	12,000	10,000	40,659	3,403	28.36%
Central Farmland	Monroe	1,750	1,750	17,166	2,957	168.97%
Central Farmland	Oconto	5,500	2,275	38,595	3,426	62.29%
Central Farmland	Outagamie	3,540	1,500	24,579	2,326	65.71%
Central Farmland	Pepin	2,500	1,050	8,524	1,278	51.12%
Central Farmland	Pierce	4,500	2,600	19,062	2,481	55.13%
Central Farmland	Polk	9,650	5,800	41,806	5,324	55.17%
Central Farmland	Portage	5,000	1,800	17,338	3,106	62.12%
Central Farmland	Shawano	8,000	4,200	71,187	6,133	76.66%
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	2,250	950	11,664	1,468	65.24%
Central Farmland	St Croix	4,500	2,300	21,489	2,220	49.33%
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	4,500	1,000	14,840	3,339	74.20%
Central Farmland	Waupaca	11,380	7,500	75,624	6,654	58.47%
Central Farmland	Waushara	6,720	1,800	34,069	3,029	45.07%
Central Farmland	Winnebago	1,325	500	7,728	910	68.68%
Central Farmland	Wood	1,800	0	11,942	1,984	110.22%
Central Forest	Adams	4,020	10,050	8,108	1,869	46.49%
Central Forest	Clark	1,000	2,775	2,782	1,331	133.10%
Central Forest	Eau Claire	0	0	0	79	N/A
Central Forest	Jackson	200	750	753	352	176.00%
Central Forest	Juneau	700	1,050	1,052	405	57.86%
Central Forest	Monroe	50	100	99	97	194.00%
Central Forest	Wood	100	150	152	273	273.00%
Northern Forest	Ashland	0	0	0	105	N/A
Northern Forest	Bayfield	2,500	7,150	6,866	2,477	99.08%
Northern Forest	Burnett	4,000	8,500	7,075	2,569	64.23%
Northern Forest	Douglas	500	1,000	999	1,047	209.40%
Northern Forest	Florence	700	2,000	2,005	1,117	159.57%
Northern Forest	Forest	300	800	800	546	182.00%
Northern Forest	Iron	0		0	47	N/A

**Table 2.** *Antlerless deer quota, permits available, permits issued, harvest, and percent of quota killed by Deer Management Zone and Unit for the 2017 season.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Antlerless Quota	Bonus Permits Available	(Bonus+Farmland) Permits Issued	Antlerless Harvest	% of Quota
Northern Forest	Langlade	2,000	5,725	5,883	1,923	96.15%
Northern Forest	Lincoln	2,100	6,000	6,271	1,877	89.38%
Northern Forest	Marinette	675	1,675	1,684	1,165	172.59%
Northern Forest	Menominee	0		0	1	N/A
Northern Forest	Oconto	225	500	551	265	117.78%
Northern Forest	Oneida	850	2,400	2,405	1,312	154.35%
Northern Forest	Price	1,000	2,425	2,429	1,289	128.90%
Northern Forest	Rusk	3,000	6,825	7,389	2,717	90.57%
Northern Forest	Sawyer	900	2,725	2,731	1,254	139.33%
Northern Forest	Taylor	1,700	4,350	4,359	2,221	130.65%
Northern Forest	Vilas	0	0	0	311	N/A
Northern Forest	Washburn	2,760	9,550	8,040	2,484	90.00%
Southern Farmland	Columbia	8,800	3,000	27,998	2,875	32.67%
Southern Farmland	Crawford	2,800	2,800	20,250	2,180	77.86%
Southern Farmland	Dane	5,220	3,200	13,274	1,791	34.31%
Southern Farmland	Dodge	2,725	1,500	14,513	2,158	79.19%
Southern Farmland	Grant	10,000	4,350	39,352	3,670	36.70%
Southern Farmland	Green	2,200	2,050	12,392	1,292	58.73%
Southern Farmland	Iowa	5,160	3,650	21,499	2,544	49.30%
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	1,140	500	9,717	1,199	105.18%
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	170	0	2,800	148	87.06%
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	2,300	1,250	5,962	1,196	52.00%
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	400	675	1,161	127	31.75%
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	1,580	1,000	7,812	602	38.10%
Southern Farmland	Racine	225	0	3,460	173	76.89%
Southern Farmland	Richland	16,000	5,500	43,606	3,039	18.99%
Southern Farmland	Rock	950	1,400	8,213	886	93.26%
Southern Farmland	Sauk	12,650	4,550	31,105	3,448	27.26%
Southern Farmland	Vernon	7,700	1,300	29,749	3,874	50.31%
Southern Farmland	Walworth	850	475	6,074	560	65.88%
Southern Farmland	Washington	2,380	1,750	11,951	1,471	61.81%
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	2,600	2,600	10,532	1,075	41.35%

**Table 3.** *Nine-day firearm season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014-17.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Deer Range	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>a</sup>	2016 <sup>a</sup>	2017 <sup>a</sup>	Ave
Central Farmland	Adams	72.07	31.4	25.1	19.1	33.5	27.3
Central Farmland	Barron	530.99	14.2	18	12.4	16.7	15.3
Central Farmland	Brown	113.47	37.3	34.1	23.3	29.1	31.0
Central Farmland	Buffalo	559.95	15.4	18.2	11.7	13.6	14.7
Central Farmland	Calumet	68.6	33	58.3	34	46.2	42.9
Central Farmland	Chippewa	665.88	10	15.1	11.8	13.5	12.6
Central Farmland	Clark	273.17	13.3	18.4	27.5	13.9	18.3
Central Farmland	Door	272.16	20	20.9	22.6	21	21.1
Central Farmland	Dunn	585.77	12.9	13.4	13.2	16.7	14.1
Central Farmland	Eau Claire	287.72	13.1	12.1	11.4	11.9	12.1
Central Farmland	Fond Du Lac	214.43	32.4	34.3	34.6	31.4	33.2
Central Farmland	Green Lake	179.13	26.1	26.7	35.5	25.5	28.5
Central Farmland	Jackson	374.28	21	15.9	17.8	15.3	17.5
Central Farmland	Juneau	231.29	18.9	15.6	12.4	13.2	15.0
Central Farmland	Kewaunee	97.56	52.6	43.6	55.4	61.1	53.2
Central Farmland	La Crosse	320.14	20.3	17.7	20.2	13.1	17.8
Central Farmland	Manitowoc	174.95	30.2	53.1	30.3	24.7	34.6
Central Farmland	Marathon	1000.16	18	23.2	19.4	18	19.7
Central Farmland	Marinette	345.96	13.5	16	16.2	9.9	13.9
Central Farmland	Marquette	342.73	20.3	31.2	27.2	23	25.4
Central Farmland	Monroe	539.21	17.9	15.6	16.7	15.1	16.3
Central Farmland	Oconto	413.03	25.2	30.9	23.3	24.9	26.1
Central Farmland	Outagamie	192.9	27.4	32.8	26.4	28.3	28.7
Central Farmland	Pepin	165.04	20.1	17.2	15.4	20.8	18.4
Central Farmland	Pierce	266.77	20.4	24.2	21.4	23.8	22.5
Central Farmland	Polk	623.37	17.9	21.3	18.9	15.1	18.3
Central Farmland	Portage	502.89	23.4	18.2	24.2	23.2	22.3
Central Farmland	St. Croix	239.24	23.3	18.9	18.2	41.9	25.6
Central Farmland	Shawano	579.7	24	27.4	27.6	10.7	22.4
Central Farmland	Sheboygan	190.74	27.7	30.4	22.8	21.3	25.6
Central Farmland	Trempealeau	541.65	17.8	17.6	16.6	15.2	16.8
Central Farmland	Waupaca	480.64	33.3	41.3	27.3	33.5	33.9
Central Farmland	Waushara	383.45	28.3	27.3	28.5	29.5	28.4
Central Farmland	Winnebago	112.94	26.7	35.4	26.3	19.1	26.9
Central Farmland	Wood	263.13	18.4	25	16.5	17.8	19.4
Central Forest	Adams	430.39	23.2	24.9	20.9	20.9	22.5
Central Forest	Clark	474.71	22.6	18.2	20.3	17.1	19.6
Central Forest	Eau Claire	173.23	14.8	10.4	15.9	13.9	13.8
Central Forest	Jackson	452.88	9	7.7	9.8	9	8.9
Central Forest	Juneau	380.52	13.9	12.9	12.3	11.7	12.7
Central Forest	Monroe	108.57	12.5	7.1	7.8	7	8.6
Central Forest	Wood	294.58	13.8	9.6	9	11.6	11.0
Northern Forest	Ashland	821.69	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.4	5.5
Northern Forest	Bayfield	1409.69	7.8	8.9	7.6	7.9	8.1

**Table 3.** *Nine-day firearm season opening day deer hunting pressure expressed as hunters per square mile of deer range, with current deer range densities 2014-17.*

Deer Management Zone	County	Deer Range	2014 <sup>a</sup>	2015 <sup>a</sup>	2016 <sup>a</sup>	2017 <sup>a</sup>	Ave
Northern Forest	Burnett	762.68	12.5	13.2	10.1	9.8	11.4
Northern Forest	Douglas	1238.2	6.1	7.9	6.2	8.9	7.3
Northern Forest	Florence	477.22	18	17.6	13.8	12.5	15.5
Northern Forest	Forest	996.54	9.2	9.7	7.4	8.4	8.7
Northern Forest	Iron	711.55	4.7	5.6	4.6	2.9	4.5
Northern Forest	Langlade	748.59	11.7	13.8	11.2	15.1	13.0
Northern Forest	Lincoln	797.12	14.2	13.3	14.8	11.6	13.5
Northern Forest	Marinette	920.62	16.7	20.3	13.8	18.3	17.3
Northern Forest	Menominee	.	.	.	.	.	.
Northern Forest	Oconto	336.93	21.1	14.2	14.8	21.1	17.8
Northern Forest	Oneida	1072.2	10	11.9	9.1	10.3	10.3
Northern Forest	Price	1199.87	10.3	11.5	8.7	7.3	9.5
Northern Forest	Rusk	818.11	11.1	11.2	11.9	11.3	11.4
Northern Forest	Sawyer	1113.47	9.2	7.5	7.2	12.6	9.1
Northern Forest	Taylor	814.2	16.5	14.7	10.2	10.3	12.9
Northern Forest	Vilas	769.09	12.4	12.1	12.8	11.5	12.2
Northern Forest	Washburn	745.84	11.9	14.4	11.4	11.9	12.4
Southern Farmland	Columbia	370.92	33	29.9	24.9	21.9	27.4
Southern Farmland	Crawford	455.33	12.9	15	15.8	15	14.7
Southern Farmland	Dane	428.74	14.4	13.8	13.8	12.7	13.7
Southern Farmland	Dodge	272.75	22.7	26	22.1	18.1	22.2
Southern Farmland	Grant	547.09	16	16.7	17.8	15.1	16.4
Southern Farmland	Green	179.79	12.6	20.1	14.7	24	17.9
Southern Farmland	Iowa	417.64	21.3	17.3	15.2	13.7	16.9
Southern Farmland	Jefferson	196.83	29.9	17.7	18.3	24.5	22.6
Southern Farmland	Kenosha	92.74	6.5	7	9.1	6.8	7.4
Southern Farmland	Lafayette	146.29	26.8	23.8	21	24.3	24.0
Southern Farmland	Milwaukee	46.42	.	.	.	.	.
Southern Farmland	Ozaukee	78.21	13.5	21.4	13.5	19.5	17.0
Southern Farmland	Racine	100.29	12	5.1	6.3	5.1	7.1
Southern Farmland	Richland	415.11	20	19.9	20.9	18.6	19.9
Southern Farmland	Rock	138.42	15.3	19.6	26.8	19.3	20.3
Southern Farmland	Sauk	525.39	15.8	20.6	22.6	15.2	18.6
Southern Farmland	Vernon	525.85	16.1	22.3	20.6	18.1	19.3
Southern Farmland	Walworth	177.47	10.2	13.8	11.9	10.7	11.7
Southern Farmland	Washington	187.83	17.7	17.9	11.8	23	17.6
Southern Farmland	Waukesha	245.97	9.2	7.9	9.5	8.8	8.9

<sup>a</sup> Opening day pressure is obtained from a survey sent to 10,000 Firearm Deer and Sports license holders every year. The survey asks hunters to list the unit they hunted in each day of the season. Results from this survey are expanded to estimate the total hunters in each unit. Sampling problems can affect the estimates. Quota permit allocation and season structure may also shift hunting pressure. Questions or comments should be directed to Brian Dhuey.

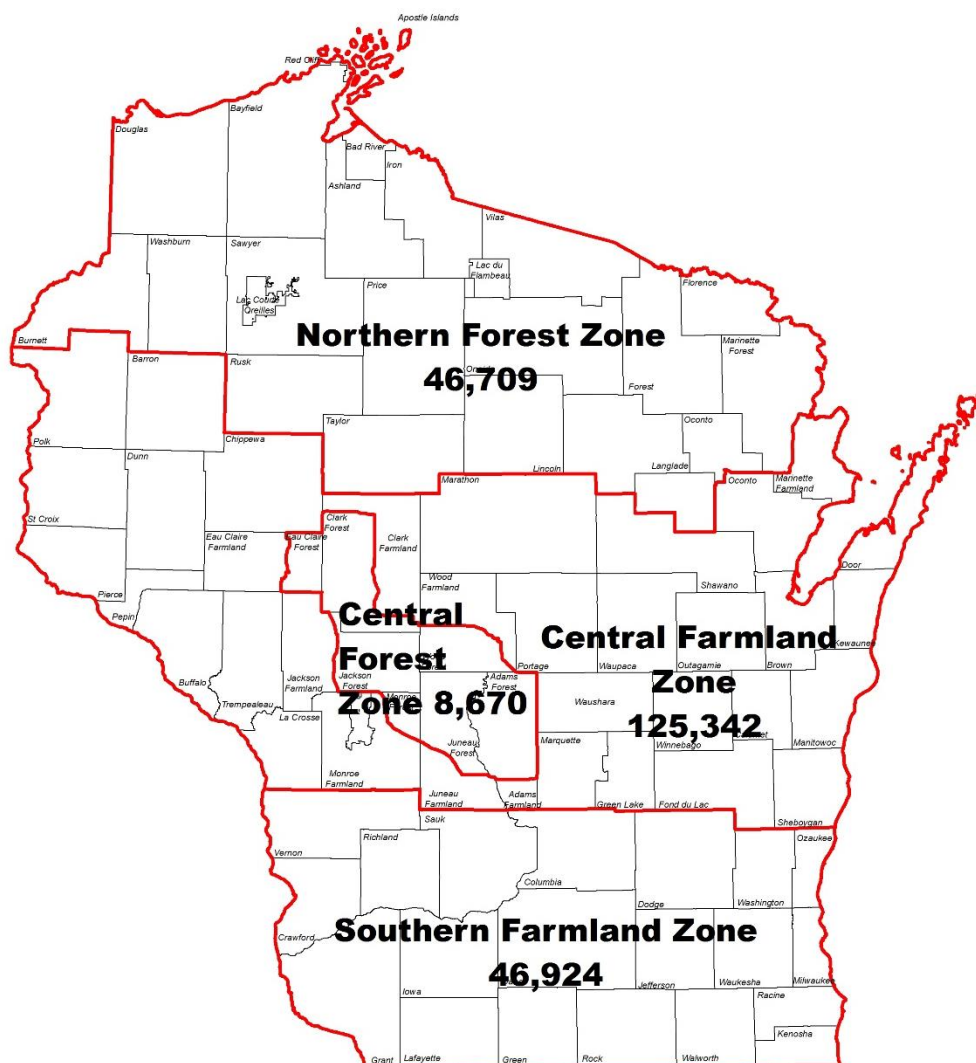
# FIREARM HARVEST

Wisconsin hunters killed 228,726 deer with a firearm during the 2017 youth, 9-day firearm, muzzleloader, December antlerless only, and holiday deer seasons. Summaries of the harvest by deer management zone and unit can be found in Tables 4-8 and Figures 1-4, respectively.

**Table 4.** *The total 2017 firearm deer harvest by deer management zone.*

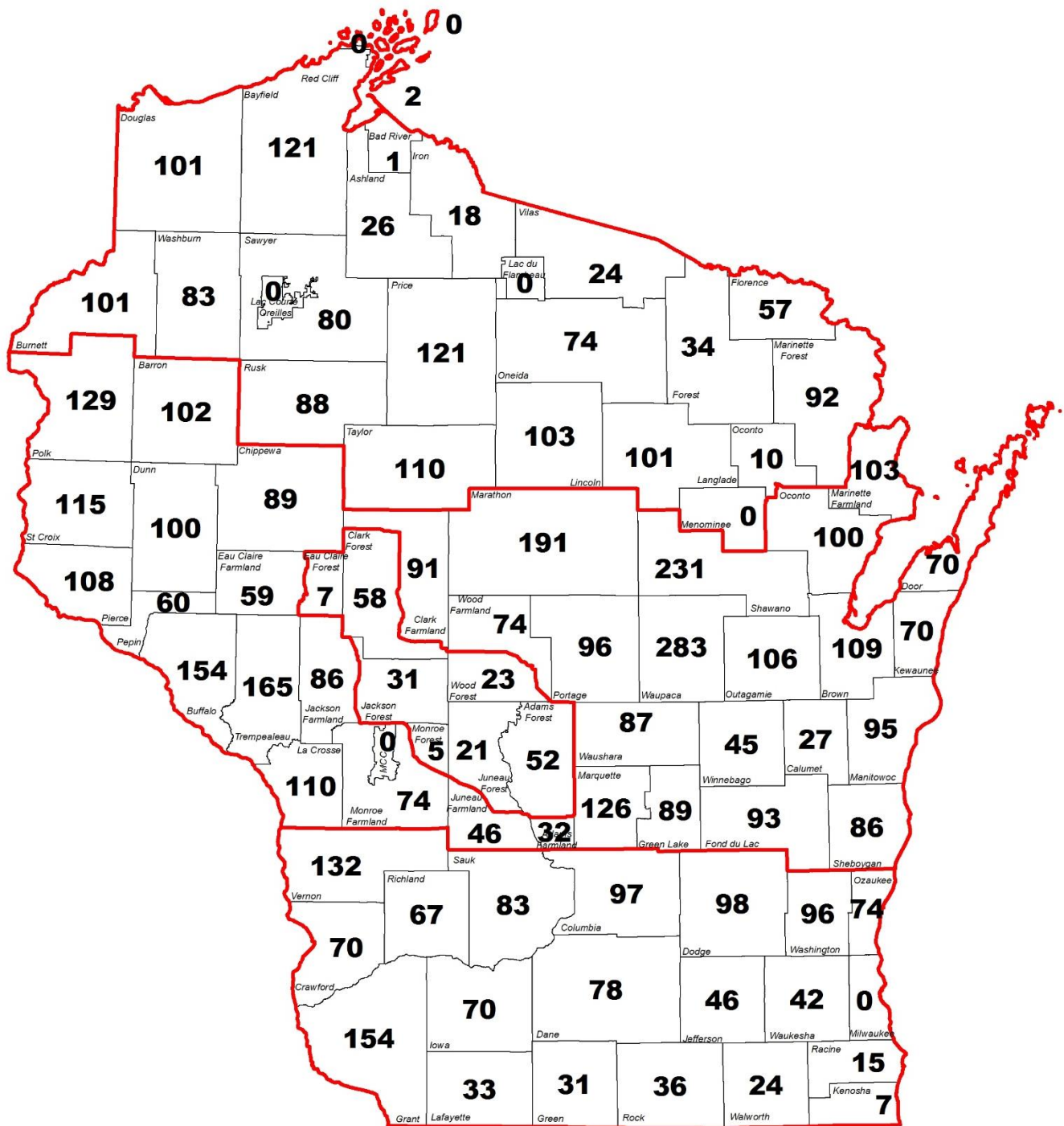
Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total	Damage <sup>a</sup>
Central Farmland Zone	52,100	73,220	22	125,342	2,193
Central Forest Zone	5,255	3,414	1	8,670	219
Northern Forest Zone	28,219	18,484	6	46,709	736
Southern Farmland Zone	20,024	26,883	17	46,924	1,140
Total	105,598	122,001	46	227,645	4,288

<sup>a</sup> Damage and nuisance kills are included in antlered and antlerless totals



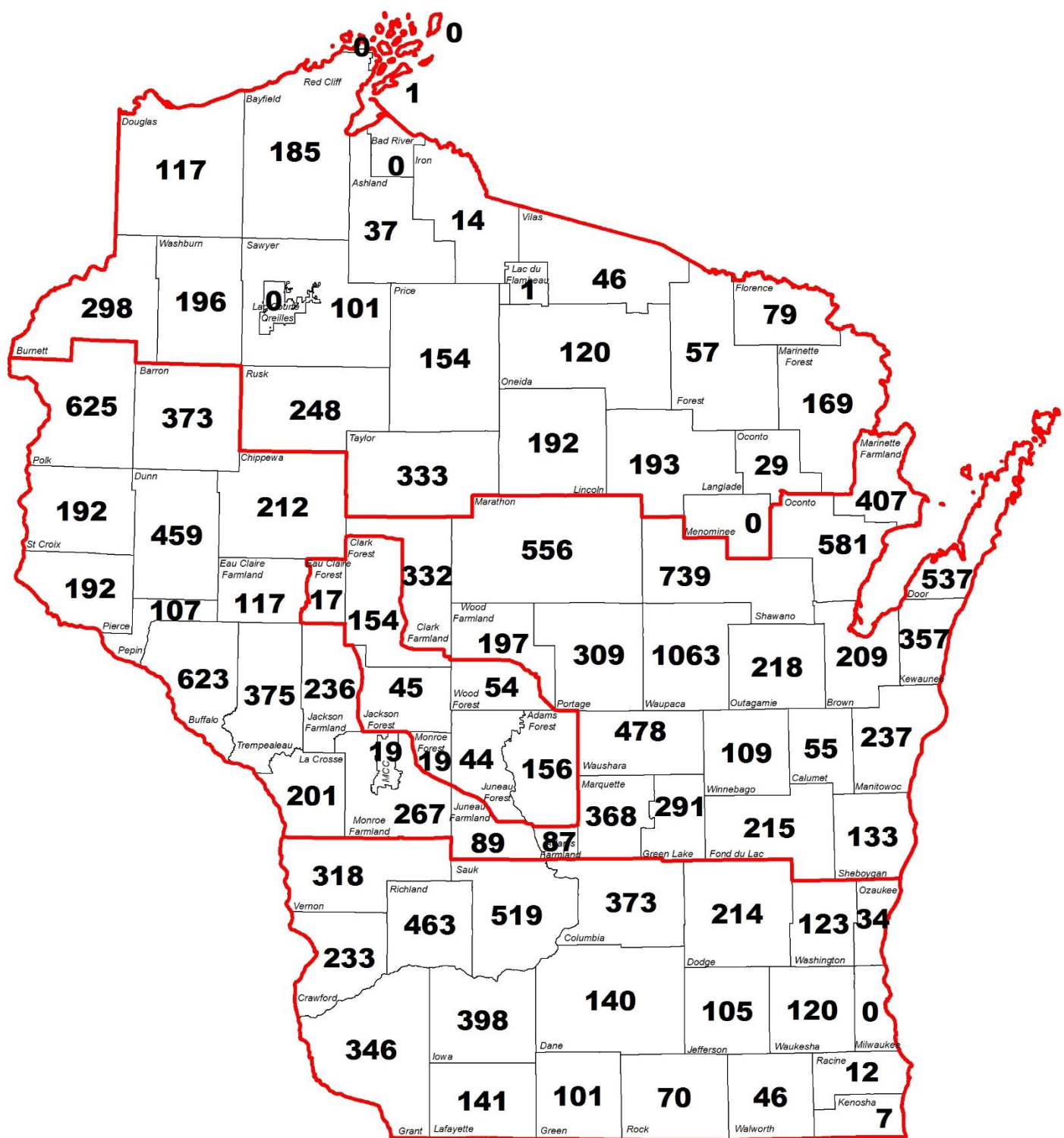
**Figure 1.** *The 2017 firearm deer harvest by deer management zone.*





**Total Muzzleloader Harvest = 6,398**

**Figure 3.** The 2017 muzzleloader harvest by deer management unit.



**Table 5. Summary of the 2017 9-day firearm deer harvest by zone and county.**

County	Deer Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total	County	Deer Management Zone	9-Day Antlered	9-Day Antlerless	9-Day Unks	9-Day Total
Adams	Central Farmland	404	542		946	Ashland	Northern Forest	851	75		926
Barron	Central Farmland	1,857	2,393	5	4,255	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest				0
Brown	Central Farmland	681	781	2	1,464	Bad River	Northern Forest	55	7		62
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,591	2,568		4,159	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	44	39		83
Calumet	Central Farmland	392	441		833	Bayfield	Northern Forest	2,228	1,614		3,842
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,669	1,173		2,842	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,829	1,713		3,542
Clark	Central Farmland	1,385	2,086		3,471	Douglas	Northern Forest	2,258	687		2,945
Door	Central Farmland	1,456	1,820		3,276	Florence	Northern Forest	1,050	765	4	1,819
Dunn	Central Farmland	1,880	2,492		4,372	Forest	Northern Forest	1,033	398		1,431
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	668	779		1,447	Iron	Northern Forest	449	35		484
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,130	1,242		2,372	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	5	1		6
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,038	1,307		2,345	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	9			9
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,233	1,504		2,737	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,496	1,169		2,665
Juneau	Central Farmland	761	875		1,636	Lincoln	Northern Forest	1,528	1,144	1	2,673
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	971	1,445		2,416	Marinette	Northern Forest	2,191	744		2,935
La Crosse	Central Farmland	925	1,219	3	2,147	Menominee	Northern Forest				0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,219	1,474		2,693	Oconto	Northern Forest	596	187		783
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,586	4,001		7,587	Oneida	Northern Forest	1,434	835		2,269
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,334	1,561		2,895	Price	Northern Forest	1,735	797		2,532
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,555	2,137	4	3,696	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	1			1
MCCoy	Central Farmland	209	262		471	Rusk	Northern Forest	1,921	1,838		3,759
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,804	2,080		3,884	Sawyer	Northern Forest	1,426	813		2,239
Oconto	Central Farmland	1,997	1,937		3,934	Taylor	Northern Forest	1,869	1,351		3,220
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,041	1,291	1	2,333	Vilas	Northern Forest	1,045	233		1,278
Pepin	Central Farmland	580	898		1,478	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,602	1,686	1	3,289
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,062	1,695		2,757	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>26,655</b>	<b>16,131</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42,792</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	2,347	3,538		5,885	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,749	1,847		3,596
Portage	Central Farmland	1,740	2,105	1	3,846	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,286	1,617		2,903
St Croix	Central Farmland	980	1,357		2,337	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,025	1,124	3	2,152
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,133	3,752		6,885	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,200	1,435		2,635
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	817	870		1,687	Grant	Southern Farmland	2,210	2,774		4,984
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1,770	2,291		4,061	Green	Southern Farmland	698	949		1,647
Waupaca	Central Farmland	2,827	3,829	1	6,657	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,483	1,653	2	3,138
Waushara	Central Farmland	1,338	1,732	4	3,074	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	715	771		1,486
Winnebago	Central Farmland	559	475		1,034	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	68	65		133
Wood	Central Farmland	987	1,276	1	2,264	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	717	854		1,571
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>48,926</b>	<b>61,228</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>110,176</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	42	38	7	87
Adams	Central Forest	1,124	1,291		2,415	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	202	296		498
Clark	Central Forest	1,320	896		2,216	Racine	Southern Farmland	130	79		209
Eau Claire	Central Forest	395	59		454	Richland	Southern Farmland	1,757	2,079		3,836
Jackson	Central Forest	637	210		847	Rock	Southern Farmland	501	532		1,033
Juneau	Central Forest	711	282	1	994	Sauk	Southern Farmland	1,958	2,229	2	4,189
Monroe	Central Forest	235	62		297	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,030	2,898	3	4,931
Wood	Central Forest	571	190		761	Walworth	Southern Farmland	339	306		645
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>4,993</b>	<b>2,990</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7,984</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	607	745		1,352
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	357	526		883
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>19,074</b>	<b>22,817</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>41,908</b>
						Unknown	Unknown				0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>99,648</b>	<b>103,166</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>202,860</b>
								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 6. Summary of the 2017 muzzleloader deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer Management Zone	Muzzle loader Antlered	Muzzle loader Antlerless	Muzzle loader Unks	Muzzle loader Total	County	Deer Management Zone	Muzzle loader Antlered	Muzzle loader Antlerless	Muzzle loader Unks	Muzzle loader Total
Adams	Central Farmland	9	23		32	Ashland	Northern Forest	26			26
Barron	Central Farmland	41	61		102	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest				0
Brown	Central Farmland	40	69		109	Bad River	Northern Forest	1			1
Buffalo	Central Farmland	52	102		154	Madeline Island	Northern Forest		2		2
Calumet	Central Farmland	9	18		27	Bayfield	Northern Forest	65	56		121
Chippewa	Central Farmland	47	42		89	Burnett	Northern Forest	40	61		101
Clark	Central Farmland	31	60		91	Douglas	Northern Forest	80	21		101
Door	Central Farmland	23	47		70	Florence	Northern Forest	33	24		57
Dunn	Central Farmland	39	61		100	Forest	Northern Forest	25	9		34
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	20	39		59	Iron	Northern Forest	17	1		18
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	34	59		93	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest				0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	33	56		89	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest				0
Jackson	Central Farmland	21	65		86	Langlade	Northern Forest	51	50		101
Juneau	Central Farmland	14	32		46	Lincoln	Northern Forest	56	47		103
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	26	44		70	Marinette	Northern Forest	66	26		92
La Crosse	Central Farmland	39	71		110	Menominee	Northern Forest				0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	31	64		95	Oconto	Northern Forest	7	3		10
Marathon	Central Farmland	59	132		191	Oneida	Northern Forest	39	35		74
Marinette	Central Farmland	29	74		103	Price	Northern Forest	85	36		121
Marquette	Central Farmland	43	83		126	Red Cliff	Northern Forest				0
MCCoy	Central Farmland				0	Rusk	Northern Forest	40	48		88
Monroe	Central Farmland	26	48		74	Sawyer	Northern Forest	53	27		80
Oconto	Central Farmland	33	67		100	Taylor	Northern Forest	53	57		110
Outagamie	Central Farmland	40	66		106	Vilas	Northern Forest	21	3		24
Pepin	Central Farmland	20	40		60	Washburn	Northern Forest	23	60		83
Pierce	Central Farmland	46	62		108	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>781</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,347</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	42	87		129	Columbia	Southern Farmland	33	64		97
Portage	Central Farmland	40	56		96	Crawford	Southern Farmland	32	38		70
St Croix	Central Farmland	37	78		115	Dane	Southern Farmland	39	39		78
Shawano	Central Farmland	74	157		231	Dodge	Southern Farmland	31	67		98
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	36	50		86	Grant	Southern Farmland	57	97		154
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	60	105		165	Green	Southern Farmland	14	17		31
Waupaca	Central Farmland	97	186		283	Iowa	Southern Farmland	25	45		70
Waushara	Central Farmland	33	54		87	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	14	32		46
Winnebago	Central Farmland	28	17		45	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	2	5		7
Wood	Central Farmland	31	43		74	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	13	20		33
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>1,283</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,601</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland				0
Adams	Central Forest	24	28		52	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	30	44		74
Clark	Central Forest	26	32		58	Racine	Southern Farmland	11	4		15
Eau Claire	Central Forest	7			7	Richland	Southern Farmland	26	41		67
Jackson	Central Forest	24	7		31	Rock	Southern Farmland	15	21		36
Juneau	Central Forest	17	4		21	Sauk	Southern Farmland	28	55		83
Monroe	Central Forest	4	1		5	Vernon	Southern Farmland	41	91		132
Wood	Central Forest	18	5		23	Walworth	Southern Farmland	14	10		24
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>197</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	45	51		96
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	28	14	0	42
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>498</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,253</b>
						Unknown	Unknown				0
						Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>2,682</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,398</b>

**Table 7. Summary of the 2017 Youth, December antlerless, and Holiday Hunt season deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unks	Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	6	81	0	87	Ashland	Northern Forest	21	16	0	37
Barron	Central Farmland	106	267	0	373	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	25	184	0	209	Bad River	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	Central Farmland	75	548	0	623	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Calumet	Central Farmland	5	50	0	55	Bayfield	Northern Forest	44	141	0	185
Chippewa	Central Farmland	68	144	0	212	Burnett	Northern Forest	69	229	0	298
Clark	Central Farmland	52	280	0	332	Douglas	Northern Forest	46	71	0	117
Door	Central Farmland	38	499	0	537	Florence	Northern Forest	22	57	0	79
Dunn	Central Farmland	86	373	0	459	Forest	Northern Forest	21	36	0	57
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	24	93	0	117	Iron	Northern Forest	8	6	0	14
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	42	173	0	215	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	39	252	0	291	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	0	1	0	1
Jackson	Central Farmland	51	185	0	236	Langlade	Northern Forest	59	134	0	193
Juneau	Central Farmland	16	73	0	89	Lincoln	Northern Forest	57	135	0	192
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	39	318	0	357	Marinette	Northern Forest	68	101	0	169
La Crosse	Central Farmland	41	160	0	201	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	44	193	0	237	Oconto	Northern Forest	9	20	0	29
Marathon	Central Farmland	151	405	0	556	Oneida	Northern Forest	26	94	0	120
Marinette	Central Farmland	49	358	0	407	Price	Northern Forest	60	94	0	154
Marquette	Central Farmland	39	329	0	368	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	4	15	0	19	Rusk	Northern Forest	65	183	0	248
Monroe	Central Farmland	46	221	0	267	Sawyer	Northern Forest	40	61	0	101
Oconto	Central Farmland	77	504	0	581	Taylor	Northern Forest	113	220	0	333
Outagamie	Central Farmland	41	177	0	218	Vilas	Northern Forest	14	32	0	46
Pepin	Central Farmland	23	84	0	107	Washburn	Northern Forest	40	156	0	196
Pierce	Central Farmland	47	145	0	192	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>783</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,570</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	98	527	0	625	Columbia	Southern Farmland	59	314	0	373
Portage	Central Farmland	63	246	0	309	Crawford	Southern Farmland	17	216	0	233
St Croix	Central Farmland	50	142	0	192	Dane	Southern Farmland	21	119	0	140
Shawano	Central Farmland	141	598	0	739	Dodge	Southern Farmland	38	176	0	214
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	18	115	0	133	Grant	Southern Farmland	46	300	0	346
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	77	298	0	375	Green	Southern Farmland	17	84	0	101
Waupaca	Central Farmland	111	952	0	1063	Iowa	Southern Farmland	35	363	0	398
Waushara	Central Farmland	41	437	0	478	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	11	94	0	105
Winnebago	Central Farmland	17	92	0	109	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	3	4	0	7
Wood	Central Farmland	41	156	0	197	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	15	126	0	141
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>1,891</b>	<b>9,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,565</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	0	0	0	0
Adams	Central Forest	32	124	0	156	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	3	31	0	34
Clark	Central Forest	46	108	0	154	Racine	Southern Farmland	2	10	0	12
Eau Claire	Central Forest	10	7	0	17	Richland	Southern Farmland	51	412	0	463
Jackson	Central Forest	17	28	0	45	Rock	Southern Farmland	13	57	0	70
Juneau	Central Forest	11	33	0	44	Sauk	Southern Farmland	43	476	0	519
Monroe	Central Forest	8	11	0	19	Vernon	Southern Farmland	43	275	0	318
Wood	Central Forest	18	36	0	54	Walworth	Southern Farmland	7	39	0	46
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>488</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	19	104	0	123
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	9	111	0	120
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>452</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,763</b>
						Unknown	Unknown				
						<b>Unknown Total</b>					
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,268</b>	<b>15,119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,387</b>

**Table 8. Summary of the 2017 firearm deer harvest by zone and unit (includes Youth, 9-day, damage, muzzleloader, and December antlerless seasons).**

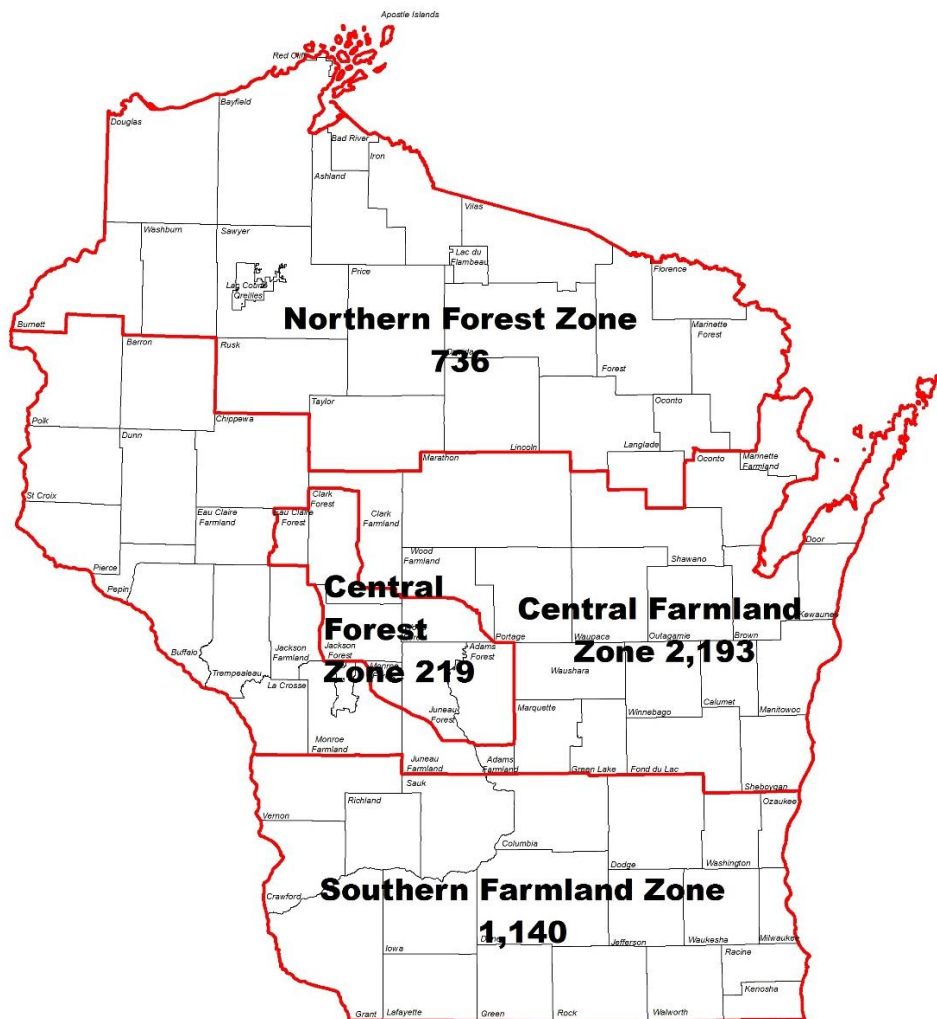
County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	419	646	0	1,065	Ashland	Northern Forest	898	91	0	989
Barron	Central Farmland	2,004	2,721	5	4,730	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	746	1,034	2	1,782	Bad River	Northern Forest	56	7	0	63
Buffalo	Central Farmland	1,718	3,218	0	4,936	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	45	41	0	86
Calumet	Central Farmland	406	509	0	915	Bayfield	Northern Forest	2,337	1,811	0	4,148
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1,784	1,359	0	3,143	Burnett	Northern Forest	1,938	2,003	0	3,941
Clark	Central Farmland	1,468	2,426	0	3,894	Douglas	Northern Forest	2,384	779	0	3,163
Door	Central Farmland	1,517	2,366	0	3,883	Florence	Northern Forest	1,105	846	4	1,955
Dunn	Central Farmland	2,005	2,926	0	4,931	Forest	Northern Forest	1,079	443	0	1,522
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	712	911	0	1,623	Iron	Northern Forest	474	42	0	516
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	1,206	1,474	0	2,680	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	5	1	0	6
Green Lake	Central Farmland	1,110	1,615	0	2,725	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	9	1	0	10
Jackson	Central Farmland	1,305	1,754	0	3,059	Langlade	Northern Forest	1,606	1,353	0	2,959
Juneau	Central Farmland	791	980	0	1,771	Lincoln	Northern Forest	1,641	1,326	1	2,968
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	1,036	1,807	0	2,843	Marinette	Northern Forest	2,325	871	0	3,196
La Crosse	Central Farmland	1,005	1,450	3	2,458	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	1,294	1,731	0	3,025	Oconto	Northern Forest	612	210	0	822
Marathon	Central Farmland	3,796	4,538	0	8,334	Oneida	Northern Forest	1,499	964	0	2,463
Marinette	Central Farmland	1,412	1,993	0	3,405	Price	Northern Forest	1,880	927	0	2,807
Marquette	Central Farmland	1,637	2,549	4	4,190	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
MCCoy	Central Farmland	213	277	0	490	Rusk	Northern Forest	2,026	2,069	0	4,095
Monroe	Central Farmland	1,876	2,349	0	4,225	Sawyer	Northern Forest	1,519	901	0	2,420
Oconto	Central Farmland	2,107	2,508	0	4,615	Taylor	Northern Forest	2,035	1,628	0	3,663
Outagamie	Central Farmland	1,122	1,534	1	2,657	Vilas	Northern Forest	1,080	268	0	1,348
Pepin	Central Farmland	623	1,022	0	1,645	Washburn	Northern Forest	1,665	1,902	1	3,568
Pierce	Central Farmland	1,155	1,902	0	3,057	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>28,219</b>	<b>18,484</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46,709</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	2,487	4,152	0	6,639	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1,841	2,225	0	4,066
Portage	Central Farmland	1,843	2,407	1	4,251	Crawford	Southern Farmland	1,335	1,871	0	3,206
St Croix	Central Farmland	1,067	1,577	0	2,644	Dane	Southern Farmland	1,085	1,282	3	2,370
Shawano	Central Farmland	3,348	4,507	0	7,855	Dodge	Southern Farmland	1,269	1,678	0	2,947
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	871	1,035	0	1,906	Grant	Southern Farmland	2,313	3,171	0	5,484
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1,907	2,694	0	4,601	Green	Southern Farmland	729	1,050	0	1,779
Waupaca	Central Farmland	3,035	4,967	1	8,003	Iowa	Southern Farmland	1,543	2,061	2	3,606
Waushara	Central Farmland	1,412	2,223	4	3,639	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	740	897	0	1,637
Winnebago	Central Farmland	604	584	0	1,188	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	73	74	0	147
Wood	Central Farmland	1,059	1,475	1	2,535	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	745	1,000	0	1,745
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>52,100</b>	<b>73,220</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>125,342</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	42	38	7	87
Adams	Central Forest	1,180	1,443	0	2,623	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	235	371	0	606
Clark	Central Forest	1,392	1,036	0	2,428	Racine	Southern Farmland	143	93	0	236
Eau Claire	Central Forest	412	66	0	478	Richland	Southern Farmland	1,834	2,532	0	4,366
Jackson	Central Forest	678	245	0	923	Rock	Southern Farmland	529	610	0	1,139
Juneau	Central Forest	739	319	1	1,059	Sauk	Southern Farmland	2,029	2,760	2	4,791
Monroe	Central Forest	247	74	0	321	Vernon	Southern Farmland	2,114	3,264	3	5,381
Wood	Central Forest	607	231	0	838	Walworth	Southern Farmland	360	355	0	715
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>5,255</b>	<b>3,414</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8,670</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	671	900	0	1,571
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	394	651	0	1,045
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>20,024</b>	<b>26,883</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>46,924</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
						<b>Unknown Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>105,598</b>	<b>122,001</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>227,645</b>

## Hot-Spot Damage

Summaries of Wisconsin's hot-spot damage deer harvest by deer management zone, and deer management unit in Tables 9 & 10.

**Table 9.** *The 2017 damage deer harvest summary by deer management zone.*

Deer management zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	53	2,118	22	2,193
Central Forest	7	211	1	219
Northern Forest	8	722	6	736
Southern Farmland	105	1,018	17	1,140
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>4,069</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4,288</b>



**Figure 5.** *The 2017 damage deer harvest by deer management zone.*

**Table 10. Summary of the 2017 damage/nuisance deer harvest by zone and unit.**

Deer Management Zone						Deer Management Zone						
County	Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill	County	Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total Kill	
Adams	Central Farmland	0	1	0	1	Ashland	Northern Forest		6		6	
Barron	Central Farmland	3	25	5	33	Bayfield	Northern Forest		5		5	
Brown	Central Farmland	17	121	2	140	Burnett	Northern Forest		56		56	
Buffalo	Central Farmland		37		37	Douglas	Northern Forest	3	30		33	
Calumet	Central Farmland		4		4	Florence	Northern Forest	2	83	4	89	
Chippewa	Central Farmland	1	10		11	Forest	Northern Forest		61		61	
Clark	Central Farmland		25		25	Langlade	Northern Forest		37		37	
Door	Central Farmland	7	51		58	Lincoln	Northern Forest	1	30	1	32	
Dunn	Central Farmland		30		30	Marinette	Northern Forest	1	51		52	
Fond Du Lac	Central Farmland		44		44	Oconto	Northern Forest	1	5		6	
Green Lake	Central Farmland	2	185		187	Oneida	Northern Forest		54		54	
Jackson	Central Farmland		38		38	Price	Northern Forest		59		59	
Kewaunee	Central Farmland		39		39	Rusk	Northern Forest		79		79	
La Crosse	Central Farmland	4	71	3	78	Sawyer	Northern Forest		65		65	
Manitowoc	Central Farmland		23		23	Taylor	Northern Forest		40		40	
Marathon	Central Farmland		182		182	Vilas	Northern Forest		30		30	
Marinette	Central Farmland	1	173		174	Washburn	Northern Forest		31	1	32	
Marquette	Central Farmland	1	131	4	136	Northern Forest Total			8	722	6	736
Monroe	Central Farmland		6		6	Columbia	Southern Farmland	1	134		135	
Oconto	Central Farmland	2	48		50	Crawford	Southern Farmland	4	17		21	
Outagamie	Central Farmland	2	145	1	148	Dane	Southern Farmland	15	37	3	55	
Pepin	Central Farmland	3	5		8	Dodge	Southern Farmland		13		13	
Pierce	Central Farmland		7		7	Grant	Southern Farmland		83		83	
Polk	Central Farmland		77		77	Green	Southern Farmland	1	10		11	
Portage	Central Farmland	5	98	1	104	Iowa	Southern Farmland		132	2	134	
Shawano	Central Farmland	1	77		78	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	1	16		17	
Sheboygan	Central Farmland		4		4	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	10	24		34	
St Croix	Central Farmland	3	26		29	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	41	37	7	85	
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	1	57		58	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland		1		1	
Waupaca	Central Farmland		194	1	195	Richland	Southern Farmland	2	109		111	
Waushara	Central Farmland		67	4	71	Rock	Southern Farmland		1		1	
Winnebago	Central Farmland		19		19	Sauk	Southern Farmland		45	2	47	
Wood	Central Farmland		98	1	99	Vernon	Southern Farmland		101	3	104	
Central Farmland Total		53	2,118	22	2,193	Walworth	Southern Farmland		5		5	
Adams	Central Forest	2	89		91	Washington	Southern Farmland	6	44		50	
Clark	Central Forest		50		50	Waukesha	Southern Farmland	24	209		233	
Jackson	Central Forest	2	15		17	Southern Farmland Total			105	1,018	17	1,140
Juneau	Central Forest	3	2	1	6	Grand Total			173	4,069	46	4,288
Monroe	Central Forest		10		10							
Wood	Central Forest		45		45							
Central Forest Total		7	211	1	219							

# Chippewa Deer Harvest Summary

The Lake Superior Chippewa Bands began a negotiated deer season with the State of Wisconsin in 1983. The total harvest for 2017 and past years is given in Table 11. The 2017 Chippewa deer harvest by deer management zone and unit are listed in Table 12.

**Table 11.** *Chippewa deer harvest summary, 1983-2017.*

Year	Antlered Kill	Antlerless Kill	Unknown Kill	Total Kill
1983	235	403	5	643
1984	213	447	28	688
1985	435	945	0	1,380
1986	615	1,530	0	2,145
1987	730	2,099	0	2,829
1988	902	2,468	0	3,370
1989	1,016	2,727	1	3,744
1990	1,101	2,739	2	3,842
1991	1,095	3,844	0	4,939
1992	690	1,850	0	2,540
1993	677	1,787	0	2,464
1994	1,163	2,469	5	3,637
1995	1,584	3,340	1	4,925
1996	1,100	2,224	23	3,347
1997	1,120	2,227	0	3,347
1998	1,529	2,435	0	3,964
1999	1,349	1,896	18	3,263
2000	1,351	1,630	0	2,981
2001	1,047	1,526	0	2,573
2002	861	1,044	0	1,905
2003	1,162	1,524	0	2,686
2004	954	1,068	0	2,022
2005	852	1,305	6	2,163
2006	956	1,354	2	2,312
2007	828	1,015	0	1,843
2008	695	900	0	1,595
2009	540	842	0	1,382
2010	646	847	0	1,493
2011	508	831	1	1,340
2012	666	943	0	1,609
2013	542	817	0	1,359
2014	423	702	0	1,125
2015	491	787	0	1,278
2016	582	886	0	1,469
2017	724	1,050	0	1,774

**Table 12.** *Summary of the 2017 Chippewa harvest by deer management zone and unit.*

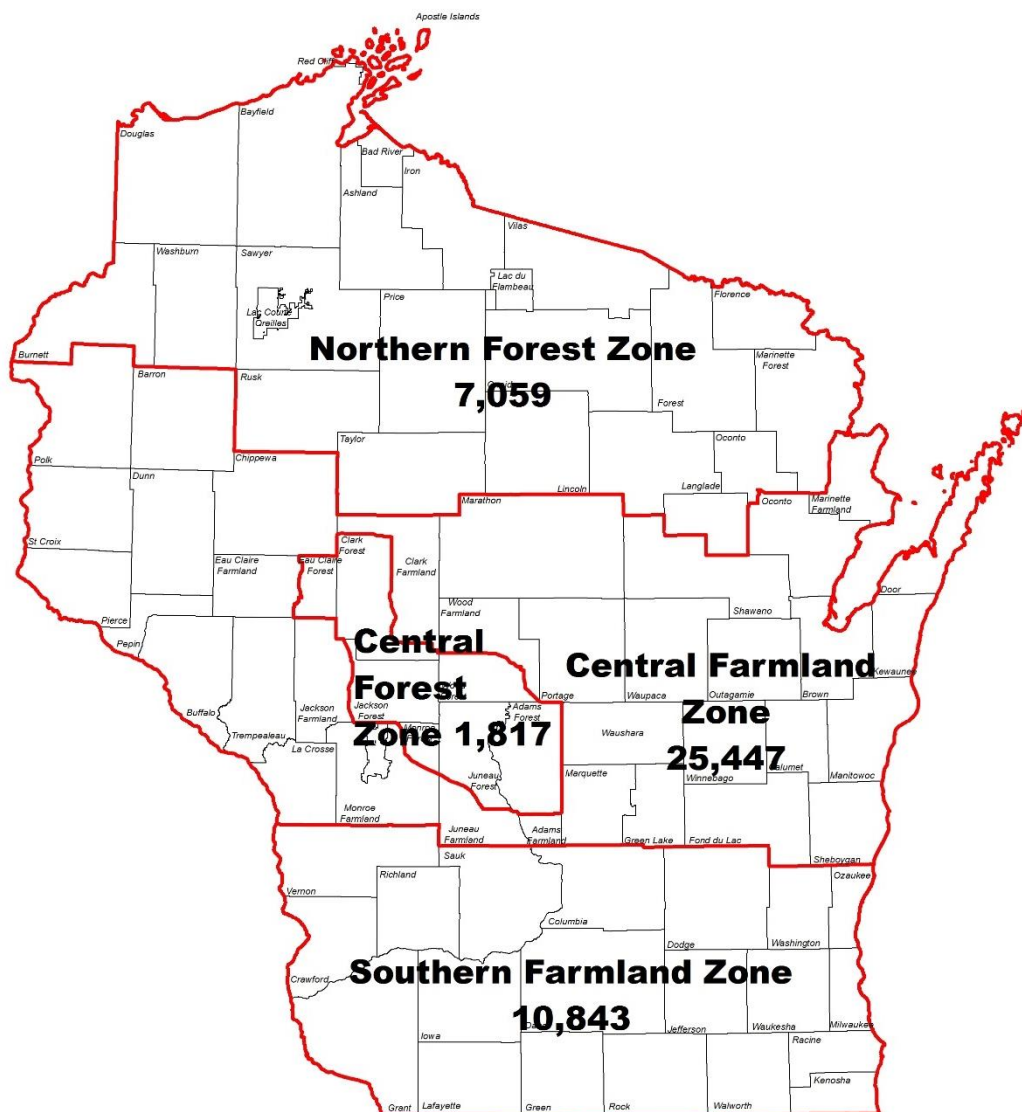
Deer Management Zone	County	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Northern Forest	Ashland	6	7	0	13
Northern Forest	Barron	5	1	0	6
Northern Forest	Bayfield	147	186	0	333
Northern Forest	Burnett	141	181	0	322
Central Farmland	Chippewa	4	2	0	6
Northern Forest	Douglas	91	116	0	207
Central Forest	Eau Claire	1	1	0	2
Northern Forest	Florence	4	4	0	8
Northern Forest	Forest	29	80	0	109
Northern Forest	Iron	2	13	0	15
Northern Forest	Langlade	10	12	0	22
Northern Forest	Lincoln	0	1	0	1
Northern Forest	Marinette	1	18	0	19
Northern Forest	Oconto	1	4	0	5
Northern Forest	Oneida	34	53	0	87
Central Farmland	Polk	8	4	0	12
Northern Forest	Price	12	13	0	25
Northern Forest	Rusk	12	6	0	18
Northern Forest	Sawyer	86	83	0	169
Northern Forest	Taylor	1	1	0	2
Northern Forest	Vilas	73	223	0	296
Northern Forest	Washburn	56	41	0	97
<b>Total</b>		<b>724</b>	<b>1,050</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,774</b>

# Bow Harvest

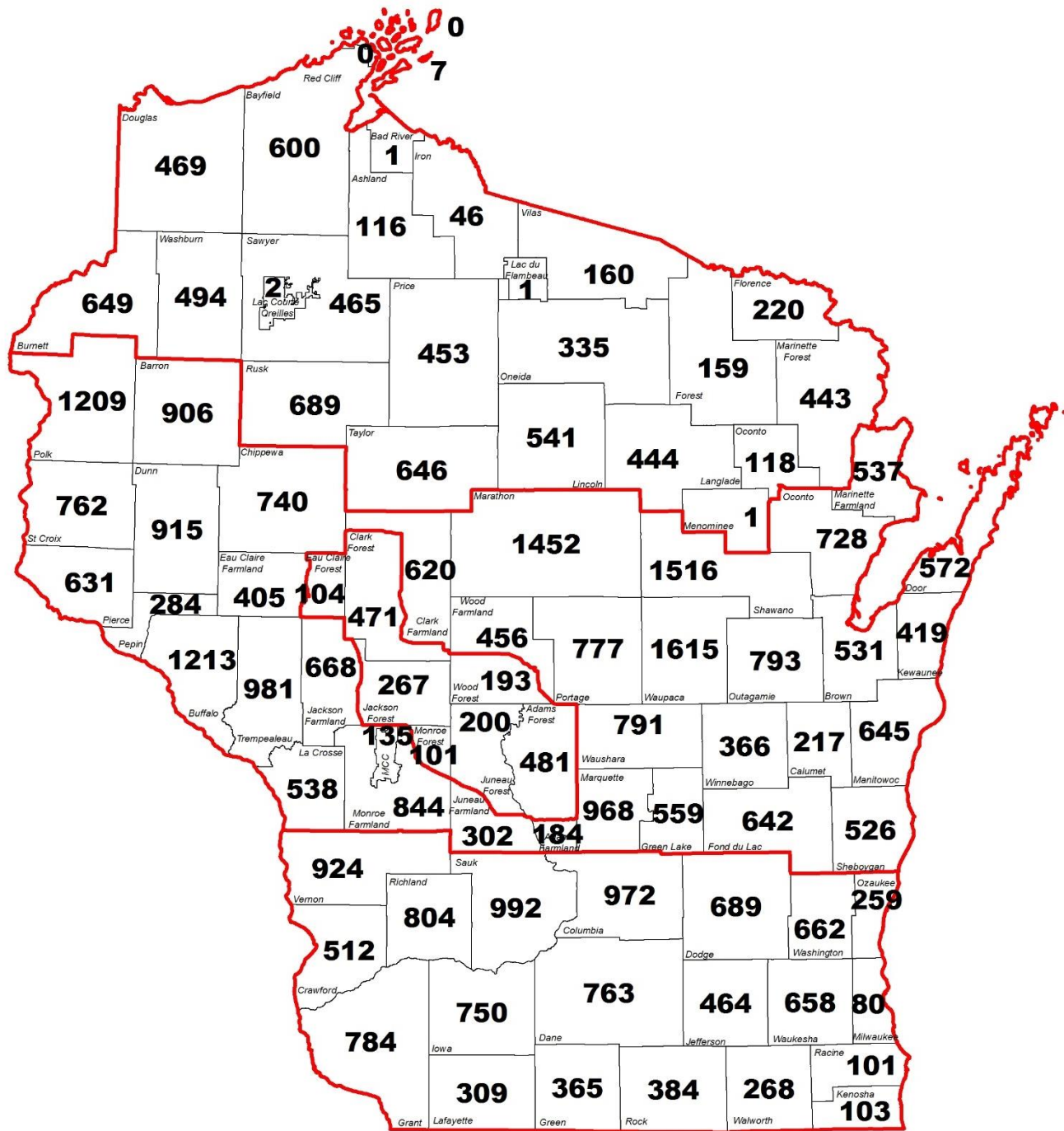
Wisconsin bow hunters killed 45,166 deer during the bow deer seasons (Table 14).

**Table 13.** *The 2017 bow deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	13,489	11,958	0	25,447
Central Forest	1,386	431	0	1,817
Northern Forest	4,474	2,585	0	7,059
Southern Farmland	6,459	4,384	0	10,843
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,808</b>	<b>19,358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,166</b>



**Figure 6.** *The 2017 bow deer harvest by deer management zone.*



**Table 14. Summary of the 2017 bow deer harvest by zone and unit (vertical bow).**

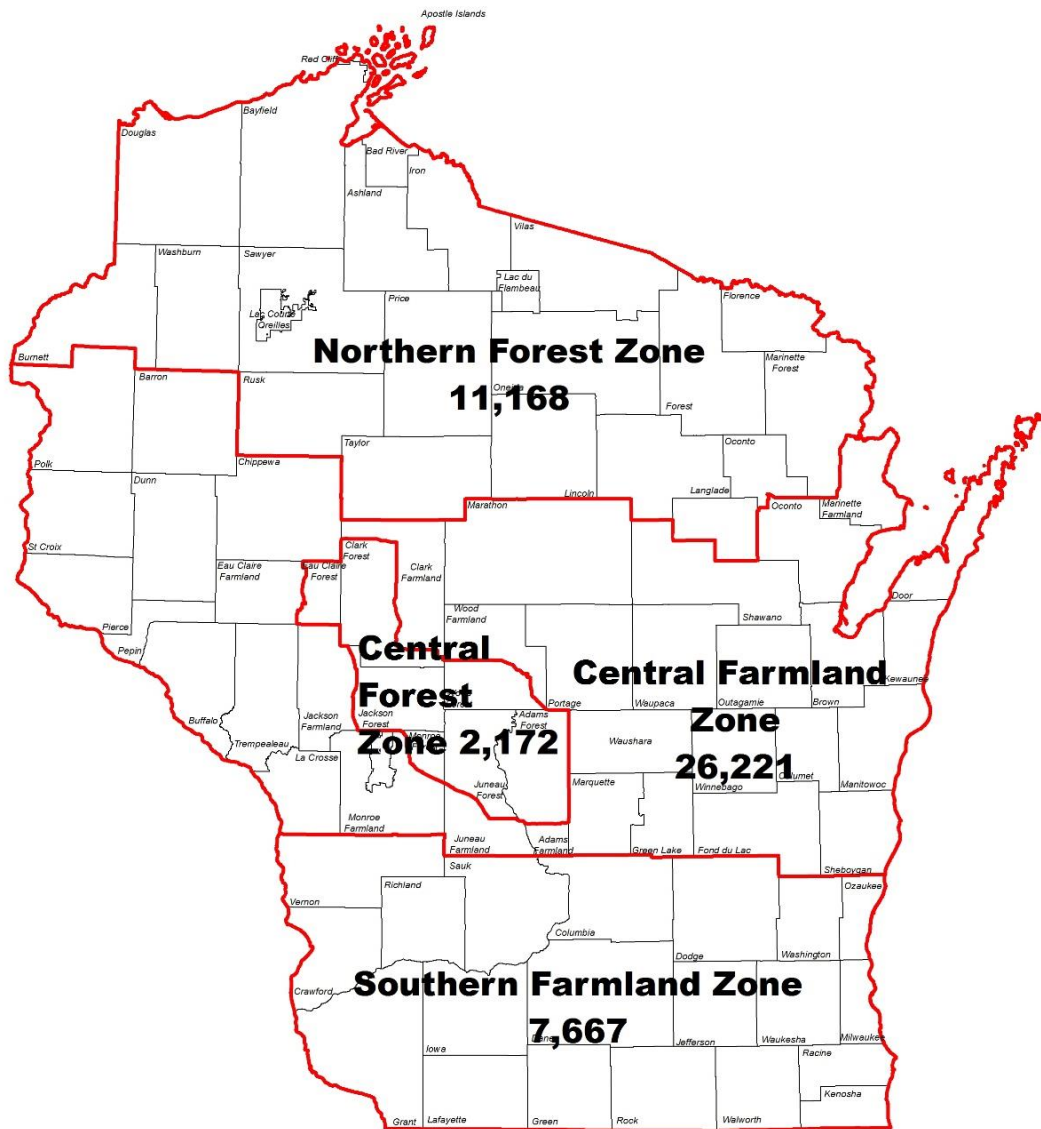
County	Deer Management Zone	Bow Antlered	Bow Antlerless	Bow Unknown	Bow Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	Bow Antlered	Bow Antlerless	Bow Unknown	Bow Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	82	102	0	184	Ashland	Northern Forest	108	8	0	116
Barron	Central Farmland	490	416	0	906	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	268	263	0	531	Bad River	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Buffalo	Central Farmland	686	527	0	1,213	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	4	3	0	7
Calumet	Central Farmland	116	101	0	217	Bayfield	Northern Forest	318	282	0	600
Chippewa	Central Farmland	490	250	0	740	Burnett	Northern Forest	366	283	0	649
Clark	Central Farmland	286	334	0	620	Douglas	Northern Forest	365	104	0	469
Door	Central Farmland	224	348	0	572	Florence	Northern Forest	115	105	0	220
Dunn	Central Farmland	499	416	0	915	Forest	Northern Forest	121	38	0	159
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	221	184	0	405	Iron	Northern Forest	45	1	0	46
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	392	250	0	642	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	2	0	0	2
Green Lake	Central Farmland	307	252	0	559	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Jackson	Central Farmland	375	293	0	668	Langlade	Northern Forest	228	216	0	444
Juneau	Central Farmland	189	113	0	302	Lincoln	Northern Forest	319	222	0	541
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	201	218	0	419	Marinette	Northern Forest	342	101	0	443
La Crosse	Central Farmland	326	212	0	538	Menominee	Northern Forest	0	1	0	1
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	347	298	0	645	Oconto	Northern Forest	96	22	0	118
Marathon	Central Farmland	796	656	0	1,452	Oneida	Northern Forest	214	121	0	335
Marinette	Central Farmland	204	333	0	537	Price	Northern Forest	321	132	0	453
Marquette	Central Farmland	488	480	0	968	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	30	105	0	135	Rusk	Northern Forest	380	309	0	689
Monroe	Central Farmland	486	358	0	844	Sawyer	Northern Forest	306	159	0	465
Oconto	Central Farmland	350	378	0	728	Taylor	Northern Forest	426	220	0	646
Outagamie	Central Farmland	391	402	0	793	Vilas	Northern Forest	144	16	0	160
Pepin	Central Farmland	159	125	0	284	Washburn	Northern Forest	252	242	0	494
Pierce	Central Farmland	329	302	0	631	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>4,474</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,059</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	596	613	0	1,209	Columbia	Southern Farmland	601	371	0	972
Portage	Central Farmland	440	337	0	777	Crawford	Southern Farmland	339	173	0	512
St Croix	Central Farmland	398	364	0	762	Dane	Southern Farmland	452	311	0	763
Shawano	Central Farmland	734	782	0	1,516	Dodge	Southern Farmland	413	276	0	689
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	305	221	0	526	Grant	Southern Farmland	466	318	0	784
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	611	370	0	981	Green	Southern Farmland	215	150	0	365
Waupaca	Central Farmland	813	802	0	1,615	Iowa	Southern Farmland	416	334	0	750
Waushara	Central Farmland	423	368	0	791	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	294	170	0	464
Winnebago	Central Farmland	203	163	0	366	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	59	44	0	103
Wood	Central Farmland	234	222	0	456	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	188	121	0	309
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>13,489</b>	<b>11,958</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,447</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	40	40	0	80
Adams	Central Forest	303	178	0	481	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	150	109	0	259
Clark	Central Forest	339	132	0	471	Racine	Southern Farmland	66	35	0	101
Eau Claire	Central Forest	100	4	0	104	Richland	Southern Farmland	498	306	0	804
Jackson	Central Forest	219	48	0	267	Rock	Southern Farmland	227	157	0	384
Juneau	Central Forest	164	36	0	200	Sauk	Southern Farmland	579	413	0	992
Monroe	Central Forest	87	14	0	101	Vernon	Southern Farmland	558	366	0	924
Wood	Central Forest	174	19	0	193	Walworth	Southern Farmland	158	110	0	268
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>1,386</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,817</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	347	315	0	662
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	393	265	0	658
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>6,459</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,843</b>
						Unknown	Unknown	0	0	0	0
						Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>25,808</b>	<b>19,358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45,166</b>

# Crossbow Harvest

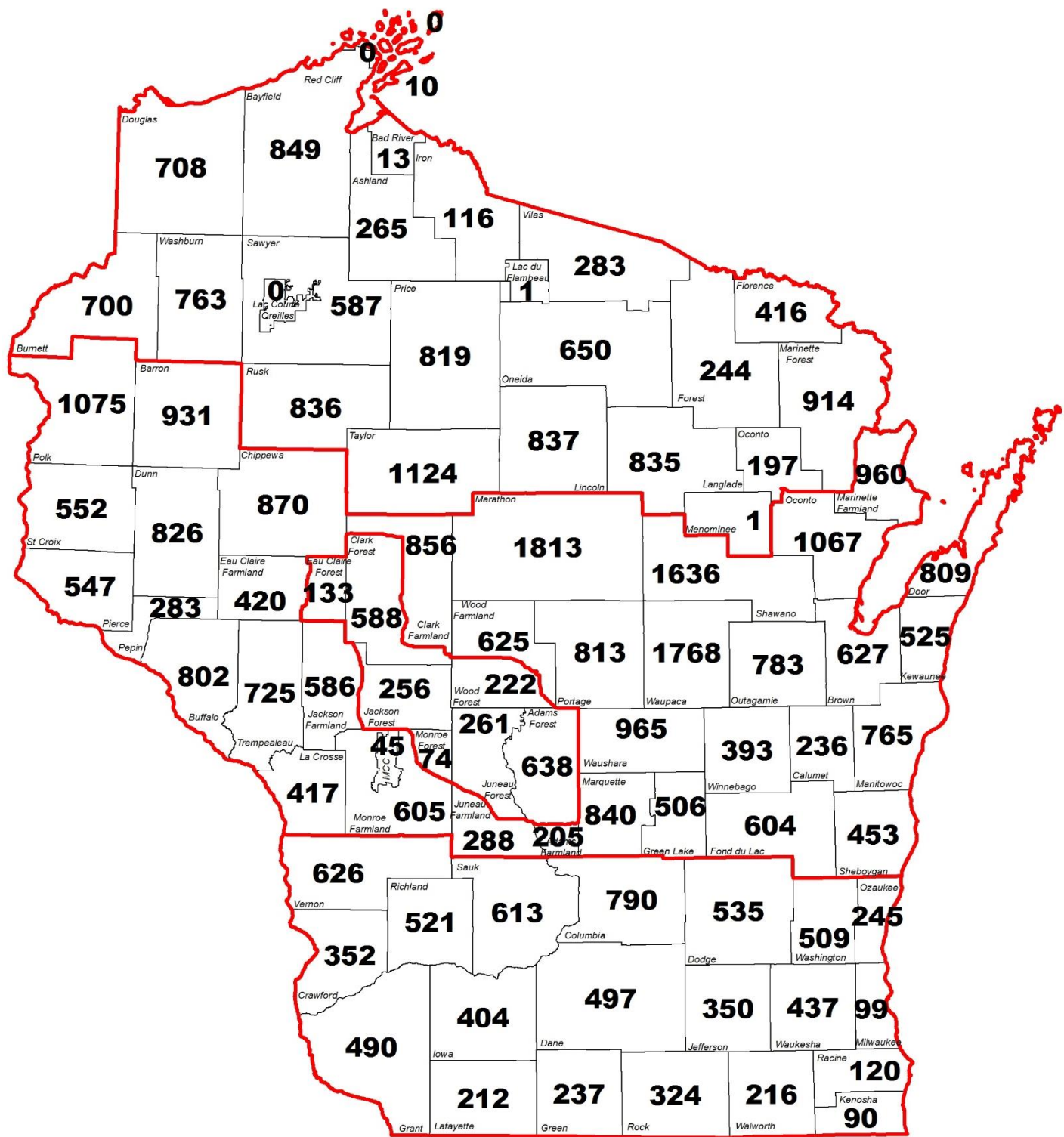
Wisconsin crossbow hunters killed 47,228 deer during the crossbow deer seasons (Table 16).

**Table 15.** *The 2017 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*

Deer Management Zone	Antlered	Antlerless	Unknown	Total
Central Farmland	13,716	12,505	0	26,221
Central Forest	1,611	561	0	2,172
Northern Forest	7,453	3,715	0	11,168
Southern Farmland	4,626	3,041	0	7,667
Unknown				
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,406</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,228</b>



**Figure 8.** *The 2017 crossbow deer harvest by deer management zone.*



Total Crossbow Harvest = 47,228

Figure 9. The 2017 crossbow harvest by deer management zone and unit.

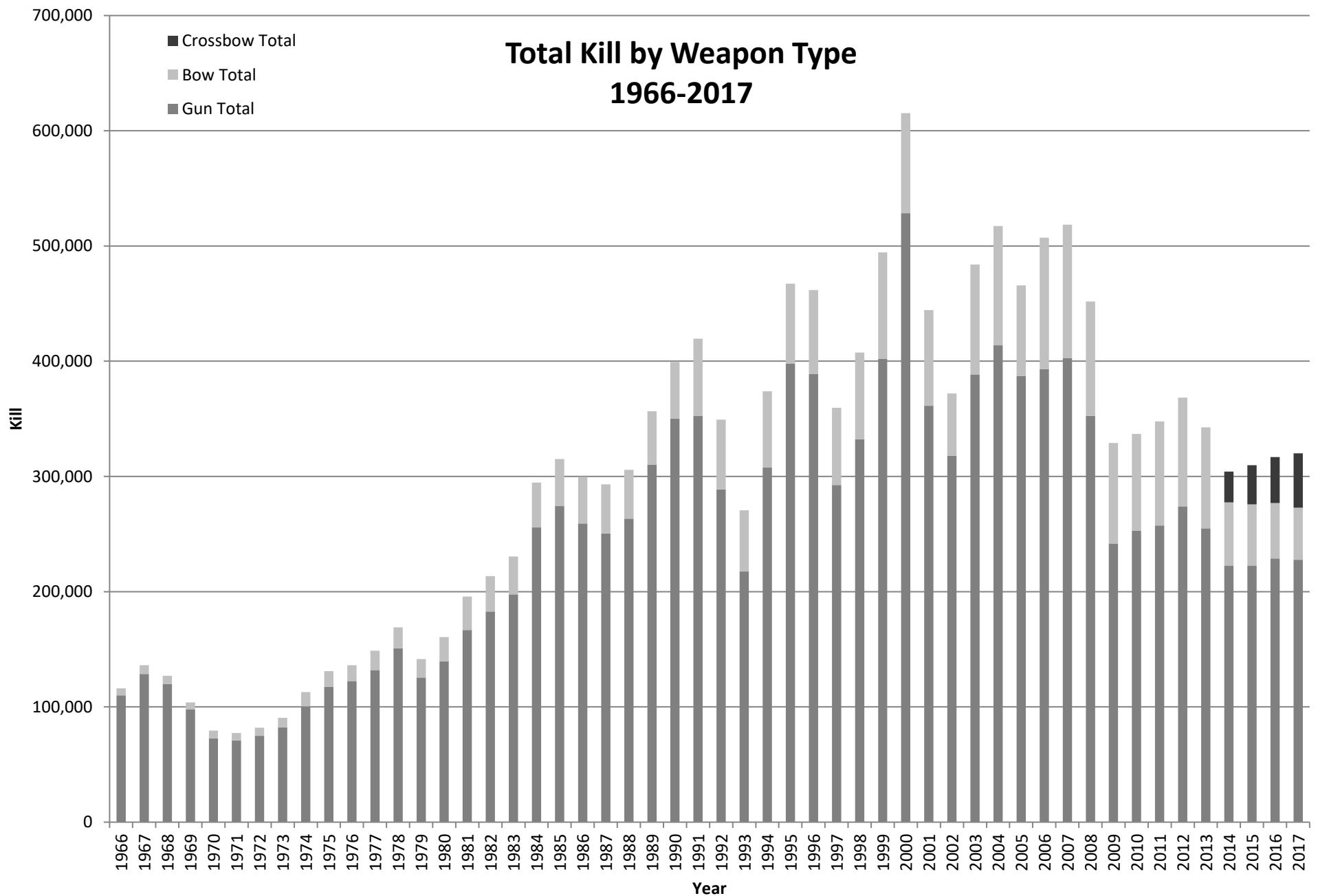
**Table 16. Summary of the 2017 crossbow deer harvest by zone and unit.**

County	Deer Management Zone	XBow Antlered	XBow Antlerless	XBow Unknown	XBow Total Kill	County	Deer Management Zone	XBow Antlered	XBow Antlerless	XBow Unknown	XBow Total Kill
Adams	Central Farmland	88	117	0	205	Ashland	Northern Forest	259	6	0	265
Barron	Central Farmland	484	447	0	931	Apostle Islands	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Brown	Central Farmland	296	331	0	627	Bad River	Northern Forest	13	0	0	13
Buffalo	Central Farmland	448	354	0	802	Madeline Island	Northern Forest	6	4	0	10
Calumet	Central Farmland	140	96	0	236	Bayfield	Northern Forest	465	384	0	849
Chippewa	Central Farmland	575	295	0	870	Burnett	Northern Forest	417	283	0	700
Clark	Central Farmland	367	489	0	856	Douglas	Northern Forest	544	164	0	708
Door	Central Farmland	323	486	0	809	Florence	Northern Forest	250	166	0	416
Dunn	Central Farmland	462	364	0	826	Forest	Northern Forest	179	65	0	244
Eau Claire	Central Farmland	231	189	0	420	Iron	Northern Forest	112	4	0	116
Fond du Lac	Central Farmland	377	227	0	604	Lac Corte Oreilles	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
Green Lake	Central Farmland	294	212	0	506	Lac du Flambeau	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Jackson	Central Farmland	317	269	0	586	Langlade	Northern Forest	481	354	0	835
Juneau	Central Farmland	160	128	0	288	Lincoln	Northern Forest	508	329	0	837
Kewaunee	Central Farmland	250	275	0	525	Marinette	Northern Forest	721	193	0	914
La Crosse	Central Farmland	239	178	0	417	Menominee	Northern Forest	1	0	0	1
Manitowoc	Central Farmland	386	379	0	765	Oconto	Northern Forest	164	33	0	197
Marathon	Central Farmland	987	826	0	1,813	Oneida	Northern Forest	423	227	0	650
Marinette	Central Farmland	402	558	0	960	Price	Northern Forest	589	230	0	819
Marquette	Central Farmland	466	374	0	840	Red Cliff	Northern Forest	0	0	0	0
MCCoy	Central Farmland	26	19	0	45	Rusk	Northern Forest	497	339	0	836
Monroe	Central Farmland	355	250	0	605	Sawyer	Northern Forest	393	194	0	587
Oconto	Central Farmland	527	540	0	1,067	Taylor	Northern Forest	751	373	0	1,124
Outagamie	Central Farmland	393	390	0	783	Vilas	Northern Forest	256	27	0	283
Pepin	Central Farmland	152	131	0	283	Washburn	Northern Forest	423	340	0	763
Pierce	Central Farmland	270	277	0	547	<b>Northern Forest Total</b>		<b>7,453</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,168</b>
Polk	Central Farmland	516	559	0	1,075	Columbia	Southern Farmland	511	279	0	790
Portage	Central Farmland	451	362	0	813	Crawford	Southern Farmland	216	136	0	352
St Croix	Central Farmland	273	279	0	552	Dane	Southern Farmland	299	198	0	497
Shawano	Central Farmland	792	844	0	1,636	Dodge	Southern Farmland	331	204	0	535
Sheboygan	Central Farmland	241	212	0	453	Grant	Southern Farmland	309	181	0	490
Trempealeau	Central Farmland	450	275	0	725	Green	Southern Farmland	145	92	0	237
Waupaca	Central Farmland	883	885	0	1,768	Iowa	Southern Farmland	255	149	0	404
Waushara	Central Farmland	527	438	0	965	Jefferson	Southern Farmland	218	132	0	350
Winnebago	Central Farmland	230	163	0	393	Kenosha	Southern Farmland	60	30	0	90
Wood	Central Farmland	338	287	0	625	Lafayette	Southern Farmland	137	75	0	212
<b>Central Farmland Total</b>		<b>13,716</b>	<b>12,505</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,221</b>	Milwaukee	Southern Farmland	50	49	0	99
Adams	Central Forest	390	248	0	638	Ozaukee	Southern Farmland	123	122	0	245
Clark	Central Forest	425	163	0	588	Racine	Southern Farmland	75	45	0	120
Eau Claire	Central Forest	124	9	0	133	Richland	Southern Farmland	320	201	0	521
Jackson	Central Forest	197	59	0	256	Rock	Southern Farmland	205	119	0	324
Juneau	Central Forest	211	50	0	261	Sauk	Southern Farmland	338	275	0	613
Monroe	Central Forest	65	9	0	74	Vernon	Southern Farmland	382	244	0	626
Wood	Central Forest	199	23	0	222	Walworth	Southern Farmland	121	95	0	216
<b>Central Forest Total</b>		<b>1,611</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,172</b>	Washington	Southern Farmland	253	256	0	509
						Waukesha	Southern Farmland	278	159	0	437
						<b>Southern Farmland Total</b>		<b>4,626</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,667</b>
						Unknown	Unknown				
						Unknown Total		0	0	0	0
						<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>27,406</b>	<b>19,822</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,228</b>

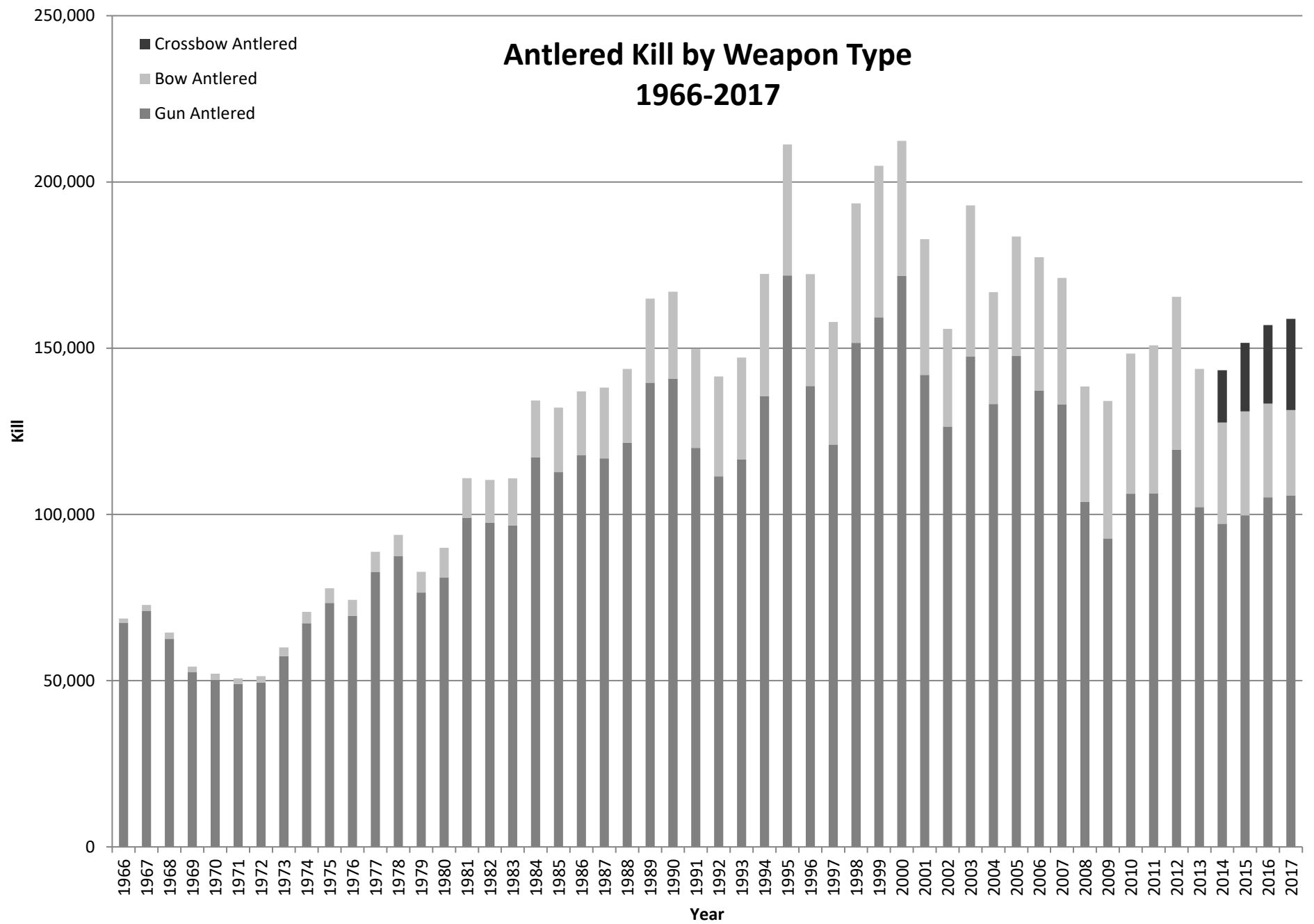
**Table 17. Wisconsin deer harvest and hunters 1966-2017.**

Year	<b>Firearm Season</b>				<b>Bow Season</b>				<b>Crossbow Season</b>			
	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters <sup>1</sup>	Antlered	Antlerless	Total	Licensed Hunters <sup>2</sup>
1966	67,362	42,700	110,062	432,111	1,357	4,629	5,986	85,114				
1967	71,032	57,295	128,527	470,782	1,714	5,878	7,592	101,573				
1968	62,521	57,465	119,986	503,190	1,924	5,010	6,934	114,975				
1969	52,655	45,353	98,008	506,526	1,576	4,411	5,987	106,669				
1970	50,308	22,536	72,844	501,799	1,775	4,745	6,520	101,573				
1971	48,994	21,841	70,835	509,447	1,696	4,826	6,522	100,206				
1972	49,416	25,411	74,827	517,724	1,956	5,131	7,087	98,720				
1973	57,364	24,741	82,105	514,626	2,594	5,862	8,456	105,875				
1974	67,313	33,092	100,405	556,815	3,390	9,124	12,514	119,960				
1975	73,373	44,005	117,378	582,113	4,439	9,149	13,588	133,775				
1976	69,510	52,999	122,509	589,590	4,775	8,861	13,636	133,318				
1977	82,762	49,148	131,910	617,823	5,993	10,797	16,790	146,760				
1978	87,397	63,448	150,845	644,594	6,472	11,641	18,113	157,838				
1979	76,550	49,020	125,570	617,109	6,203	9,815	16,018	144,511				
1980	81,041	58,583	139,624	618,333	8,950	12,004	20,954	155,386				
1981	99,034	67,639	166,673	629,034	11,867	17,216	29,083	173,874				
1982	97,534	85,181	182,715	637,320	12,854	17,996	30,850	189,524				
1983	96,628	100,672	197,600	649,972	14,208	18,668	32,876	194,367				
1984	117,197	138,726	255,726	657,969	17,049	21,842	38,891	205,132				
1985	112,701	161,601	274,302	670,329	19,396	21,348	40,744	215,900				
1986	117,886	140,882	259,240	662,771	19,126	21,256	40,490	216,472				
1987	116,881	133,393	250,530	660,400	21,278	21,253	42,651	208,675				
1988	121,536	141,888	263,424	653,790	22,213	20,180	42,393	210,518				
1989	139,651	170,282	310,192	661,713	25,249	20,994	46,394	210,912				
1990	140,726	209,005	350,040	699,275	26,263	22,860	49,291	216,981				
1991	120,009	232,330	352,520	674,422	29,739	37,110	67,097	216,559				
1992	111,476	177,245	288,820	666,570	29,992	30,324	60,478	220,872				
1993	116,507	100,977	217,584	652,491	30,661	22,274	53,008	224,008				
1994	135,574	171,945	307,629	670,776	36,772	29,419	66,254	234,077				
1995	171,891	225,846	398,002	684,944	39,379	29,790	69,269	244,262				
1996	138,622	250,011	388,791	677,072	33,625	39,224	72,941	235,780				
1997	121,050	171,296	292,513	671,706	36,812	30,264	67,115	237,991				
1998	151,575	180,601	332,254	668,958	42,010	33,251	75,301	241,391				
1999	159,296	242,908	402,204	690,194	45,562	46,641	92,203	252,322				
2000	171,753	356,741	528,494	694,712	40,579	46,220	86,799	258,002				
2001	141,942	219,322	361,264	688,540	40,867	42,217	83,120	260,239				
2002	126,470	191,418	317,888	618,945	29,322	24,831	54,133	227,124				
2003	147,436	240,908	388,344	644,818	45,498	50,109	95,607	247,211				
2004	133,223	280,571	413,794	649,955	33,635	69,937	103,572	252,602				
2005	147,622	239,688	387,310	641,771	35,935	42,515	78,450	247,309				
2006	137,278	256,028	393,306	644,906	40,081	73,837	113,918	258,394				
2007	133,131	269,432	402,563	641,432	38,011	77,999	116,010	258,854				
2008	103,845	248,756	352,601	643,266	34,662	64,622	99,284	266,435				
2009	92,754	149,108	241,862	638,842	41,402	45,839	87,241	261,964				
2010	106,263	146,775	253,038	622,542	42,115	41,718	83,833	254,014				
2011	106,396	151,115	257,511	622,860	44,443	45,757	90,200	255,426				
2012	119,469	154,578	274,047	634,821	45,988	48,279	94,267	263,860				
2013	102,221	152,782	255,003	634,655	41,517	46,111	87,628	266,380				
2014	97,196	125,392	222,588	609,816	30,433	24,377	54,810	232,718	15,768	11,123	26,891	113,506
2015	99,757	122,974	222,731	613,177	31,229	21,775	53,004	227,710	20,594	13,500	34,094	131,298
2016	105,186	123,540	228,726	599,856	28,172	20,100	48,272	220,563	23,562	16,214	39,776	149,385
2017	105,598	122,047	227,645	589,659 <sup>a</sup>	25,808	19,358	45,166	210,215 <sup>a</sup>	27,406	19,822	47,228	173,507 <sup>a</sup>

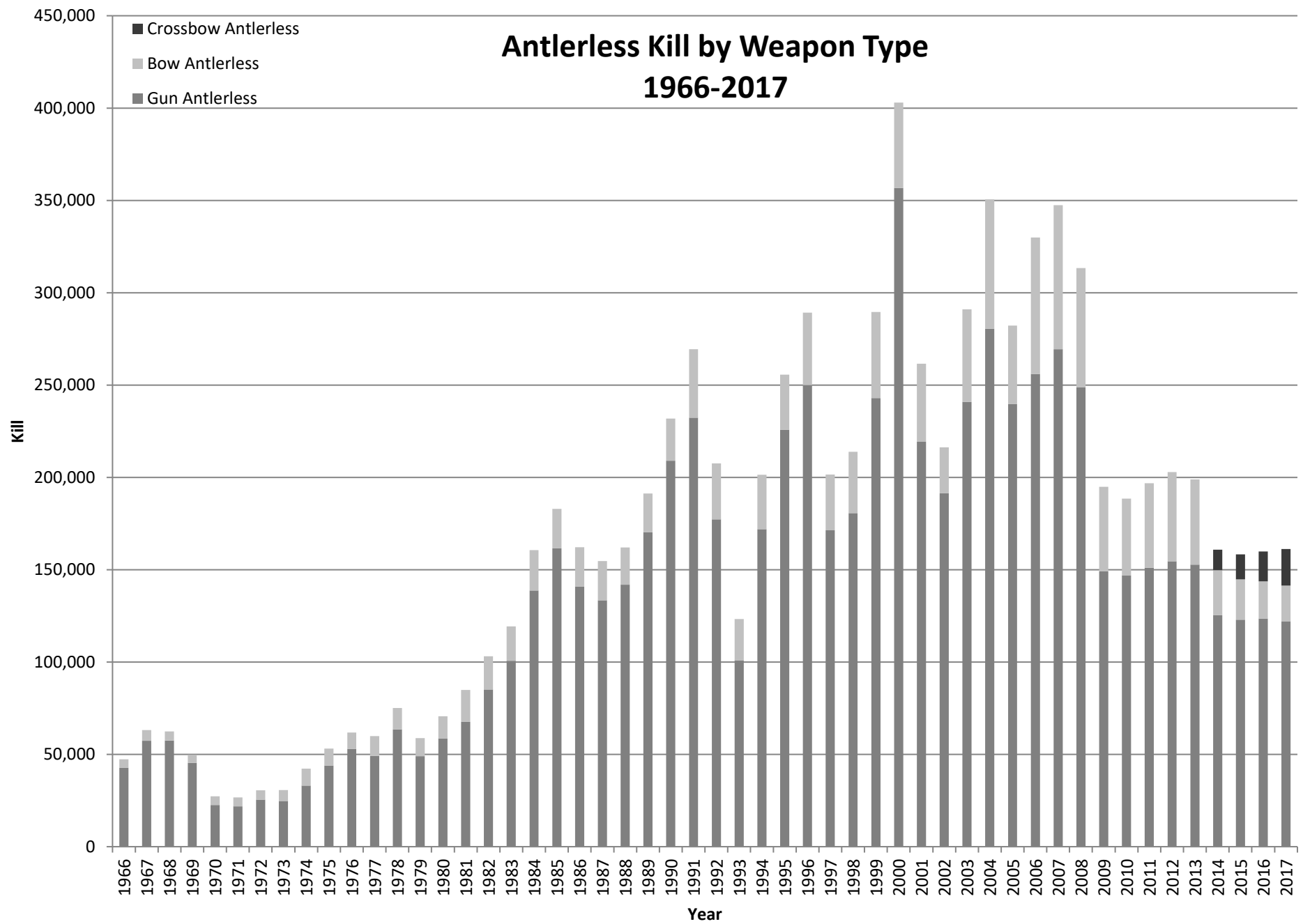
<sup>a</sup> Numbers are preliminary<sup>1</sup> Includes bow, conservation patron, and crossbow authorities that purchased bow upgrade<sup>2</sup> Includes crossbow, conservation patron, and bow authorities that purchased crossbow upgrade



**Figure 10.** *Total deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2017.*



**Figure 11.** Antlered deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2017.



**Figure 12.** *Antlerless deer harvest by weapon type, 1966-2017.*

# Hunting Accident Report

By Brenda Von Rueden  
Bureau of Law Enforcement

2017 Bow Season, 16 September - 7 January  
2017 Crossbow Season, 16 September - 7 January  
2017 Youth Deer Season, 7 - 8 October  
2017 9-Day Firearm Deer Season, 18 - 26 November  
2017 Muzzleloader Deer Season, 27 November - 6 December  
2017 December Antlerless Only Firearm Deer Season, 7 – 10 December  
2017 Holiday Hunt Antlerless Only Firearm Deer Season, 24 December – 1 January

**Table 18.** *The 9-day firearm deer season accident summary by DNR region.*

<b>DNR Region</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
Central Farmland	0	3	3
Central Forest	0	0	0
Northern Forest	0	2	2
Southern Farmland	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**Table 19.** *The bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, December antlerless only, and holiday hunt deer seasons accident summary by DNR region.*

<b>DNR Region</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Non-Fatal</b>	<b>Total</b>
Central Farmland	0	0	0
Central Forest	0	0	0
Northern Forest	0	0	0
Southern Farmland	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

5 accidents (83%) were a result of hunters shooting themselves.

1 accident (17%) involved victim and shooter being members of the same hunting party.

No accidents occurred outside the 9-day firearm deer season.

No fatal accidents occurred in 2017.

## 2017 Hunting Accident Synopsis

### Type of Accident

SI = Self Inflicted Injury

SP = Shooter and Victim in Same Party

M = Male

F = Female

**Table 20.** Summary of the 2017 deer hunter accidents by incident.

#	Date/Time	Location	Injury Description	Fatal	Self-Inflicted (SI) or Same Party (SP)	Shooter Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Victim Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Type of Firearm
1	11/18/2017 5:21am	Brown Private	Right Ankle injury	No	SI – Self Inflicted	49yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	270 Caliber Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis:	The shooter was hunting deer. Shooter/victim was preparing the rifle prior to getting into hunting stand when the firearm discharged striking victim in right ankle.							
2	11/18/2017 9:20am	Forest Public	Gunshot wound through upper right leg and lower left leg	No	SI – Self Inflicted	49yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	30-06 Caliber Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis:	The shooter was hunting deer. Upon spotting a deer, the victim manipulated a loaded 30-06 rifle positioned in the cab of vehicle when it discharged hitting victim in the right upper leg and exiting the lower left leg.							
3	11/18/2017 1:10pm	Shawano Private	45 caliber handgun wound to upper right thigh, entry and exit wound on the same side	No	SI – Self Inflicted	51yr M No	Same as Shooter	45 Caliber Semi-Auto Handgun
Synopsis:	The shooter/victim was walking to deer stand when he bent over to pick up a turkey feather. When he stood up and took a step the holstered handgun fired hitting victim in the upper right thigh.							
4	11/22/2017 12:25pm	Ozaukee Private	Bullet passed through upper leg	No	SP - Same Party	24yr M Yes	53yr M Yes	30.06 Caliber Semi- auto Action rifle
Synopsis:	The shooter was one of two posters/standers in a deer drive. Antlered deer was jumped and doubled back towards the drivers. Both posters/standers shot hitting victim in upper leg.							
5	11/23/2017 9:38am	Clark Private	Bullet went through top of left foot and exited right side	No	SI – Self Inflicted	27yr M Yes	Same as Shooter	300 Caliber Semi-auto Rifle
Synopsis:	The shooter/victim was walking through an open plowed cornfield when the firearm started to discharge. At least three rounds went off with one of the rounds hitting the victim in the top of left foot.							

**Table 20.** *Summary of the 2017 deer hunter accidents by incident.*

#	Date/Time	Location	Injury Description	Fatal	Self-Inflicted (SI) or Same Party (SP)	Shooter Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Victim Age / Sex / Hunter Safety Certified	Type of Firearm
6	11/24/2017 07:25pm	Washburn Public	Gunshot wound to top right foot in the ankle area exiting out the bottom of foot	No	SI – Self Inflicted	24yr M Yes	Same as shooter	7mm Caliber Bolt Action Rifle
Synopsis: The shooter/victim was retrieving hunting ground blind and chair after hunting hours (dark). While carrying the hunting equipment victim heard safety click off. Victim reached down to put the safety back on, tripped, and inadvertently hit the trigger causing a discharge striking victim in the top of foot.								

# 2017 Deer Ages and Condition

by Joseph Dittrich and Daniel J. Storm

## **Abstract**

Harvest age-structure provides information on the dynamics of the deer herd. Yearling doe percentages are an indicator of herd recruitment, and were below average in all regions. Relative to 5-year means, yearling buck percentages in 2017 were substantially lower in all regions. The decrease in yearling buck percentages may reflect decreased over-winter survival of young-of-the-year from the 2016-2017 winter, though unlikely because the winter was mild. The decrease could also be the result of hunter selection of older bucks. The percentage of yearling bucks with forked antlers was slightly above the 5-year average for the northwest and northcentral forest regions and slightly below the 5-year average in the remainder of the regions.

## **Introduction**

Sampling age-composition of Wisconsin's deer herd using hunter-killed deer is an essential component of Wisconsin's deer population monitoring program. Age composition data by deer management unit (DMU) supports population modeling used to estimate DMU deer herd sizes and to set annual harvest quotas. Age samples also help when interpreting harvest changes.

## **Methods**

Deer were aged using the molariform tooth wear and replacement method. Yearling antler development was recorded as "sub-legal" or short spikes (< 3" antler), legal spikes ( $\geq 3$ " spikes), and forked bucks (forked antlers and larger). Trends in yearling buck percent, yearling doe percent and antler development were estimated by pooling DMUs (now counties) across groupings of adjacent counties. The 2017 data were compared to 5-year and long-term (1997 - 2017) averages. County age samples for 1997-2013 were approximated from groupings of deer management units that included the county.

## **Results and Discussion**

In 2017, field staff aged 18,206 deer and an additional 11,548 through CWD surveillance sampling. There were 18% more deer aged in 2017 than 2016 ( $n = 15,418$ ), and 34% more than 2015 ( $n = 13,537$ ).

### ***Buck ages***

Yearling bucks comprised between 36-40% of the total buck harvest in the forest zone county groups during 2017, substantially below both 5-year and long-term means (Table 1). The lower-than-average yearling percentages may reflect decreased deer recruitment or hunter selection of older bucks. This may also be due to an especially weak 2013 age-class (bucks that would have been 4.5 years during the 2017 hunting season), due to high over-winter mortality of juvenile deer during the record-setting severe winter of 2013-2014. Yearling buck percentages in the Northern Forest show significant annual variation, most likely due to the variable recruitment that occurs there. Nevertheless, variation in hunter pressure and weather conditions in this region during the 9-day firearm season could cause similar variation in buck harvest rates. In farmland zone county groups, yearling buck percentages were also below average (Table 1). In general, there has been a long-term decline in yearling buck percentages. In the Farmlands, reduced yearling buck percentages could be due to increased deer populations relative to hunter numbers which would reduce buck harvest rates, and/or

hunter selection against yearling bucks. Reduced recruitment could also contribute to lower yearling buck percentages. Yearling doe percentages have generally declined in the Farmlands as well (discussed below), supporting the notion that recruitment could be declining. However, yearling buck percentages have declined at a faster rate than yearling doe percentages, suggesting that reduced harvest rate is at least partially driving this trend.

**Table 1.** *Regional trends in percent yearling bucks in the buck harvest, 2013-2017.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	Yearling Buck Percentages					Percent 2017 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Northwest Forest	53	52	55	45	53	60	36	-40
Northcentral Forest	56	52	53	49	55	65	37	-43
Northeast Forest	59	61	51	48	63	70	40	-43
Central Forest	58	55	58	49	59	62	38	-39
Central Farmland	56	58	56	47	58	61	37	-39
Lake Michigan Farmland	58	61	60	54	56	62	36	-42
Western Farmland	55	57	53	48	59	58	37	-36
Southeastern Farmland	52	53	55	56	53	48	32	-34
Southwestern Farmland	41	46	42	38	43	39	26	-34

\*1997-2017

### ***Doe ages***

Yearling doe percentages were substantially below the 5-year and long-term averages in all regions. Yearling doe percentages in farmland zone county groups have declined over time (Table 2). Long-term decreases in yearling doe percentages across the farmland regions may be attributed to decreased reproduction and survival to 1 year of age resulting from a legacy of past high deer populations and over-browsed woodlands and reduced nutrition. Predator populations may play a role in these changes; however, our research using collared deer shows that predation increases when deer are in poor nutritional condition.

**Table 2.** *Regional trends in percent yearling does in the doe harvest, 2013-2017.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	Yearling Doe Percentages					Percent 2017 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Northwest Forest	30	28	24	40	28	30	21	-30
Northcentral Forest	23	27	25	13	23	27	21	-9
Northeast Forest	26	27	19	21	27	31	16	-38
Central Forest	31	29	29	25	36	35	24	-23
Central Farmland	31	34	32	30	30	29	23	-26
Lake Michigan	34	37	38	35	30	29	22	-35
Western Farmland	33	35	30	33	36	32	25	-24
Southeastern	35	36	39	34	35	31	25	-29
Southwestern	29	32	27	28	29	29	22	-24

\*1997-2017

### ***Antler development***

Estimates of the percentage of yearling bucks with forked antlers in 2017 were slightly higher than 5-year mean in the northwest and northcentral forest region and slightly lower than the 5-year mean in all other regions.

Notable differences in antler development continue to occur between heavily forested and farmland regions, and is likely explained by habitat productivity, winter weather, and deer herd densities relative to biological carrying capacity. Less severe winter conditions and distribution of high quality food resources (e.g., agricultural crops) throughout the farmland regions allow for increased carrying capacity and buffer deer herds against winter impacts on spring/summer body conditions and yearling antler development.

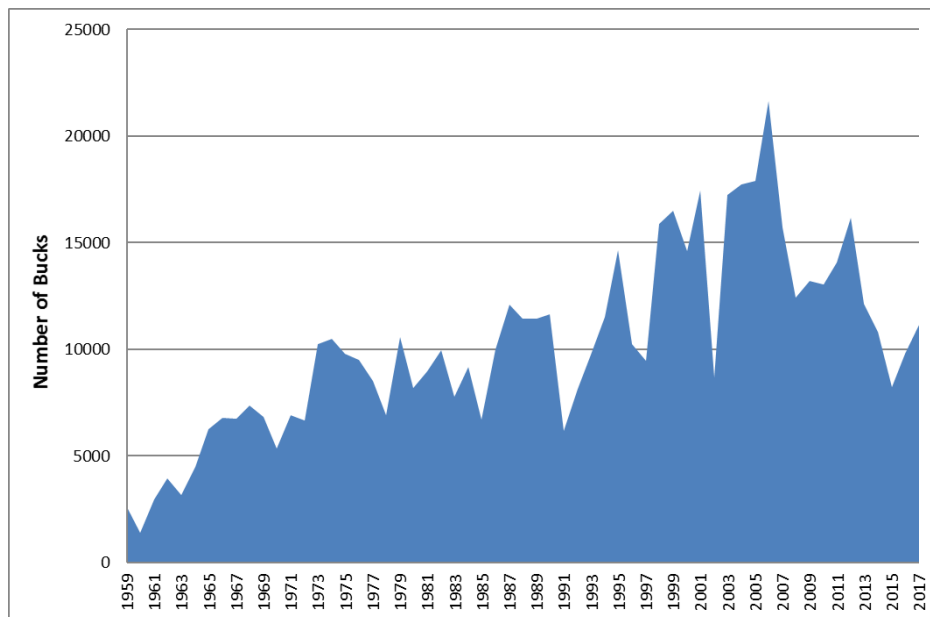
**Table 3.** *Trends in antler development of yearling bucks, 2013-2017.*

Region	5 Year Mean (%)	Long-term Mean (%)*	% of Yearling Forked Buck in Harvest					Percent 2017 is off 5-yr. Mean
			2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Northwest Forest	58	60	41	40	66	78	65	12
Northcentral Forest	59	58	49	53	61	70	62	5
Northeast Forest	62	62	63	58	64	66	55	-11
Central Forest	70	63	64	63	73	79	62	-11
Central Farmland	85	87	82	80	86	88	79	-7
Lake Michigan Farmland	90	91	88	89	89	91	87	-3
Western Farmland	88	88	84	87	84	91	85	-3
Southeastern Farmland	92	93	89	90	91	92	88	-4
Southwestern Farmland	93	94	90	96	91	88	86	-7

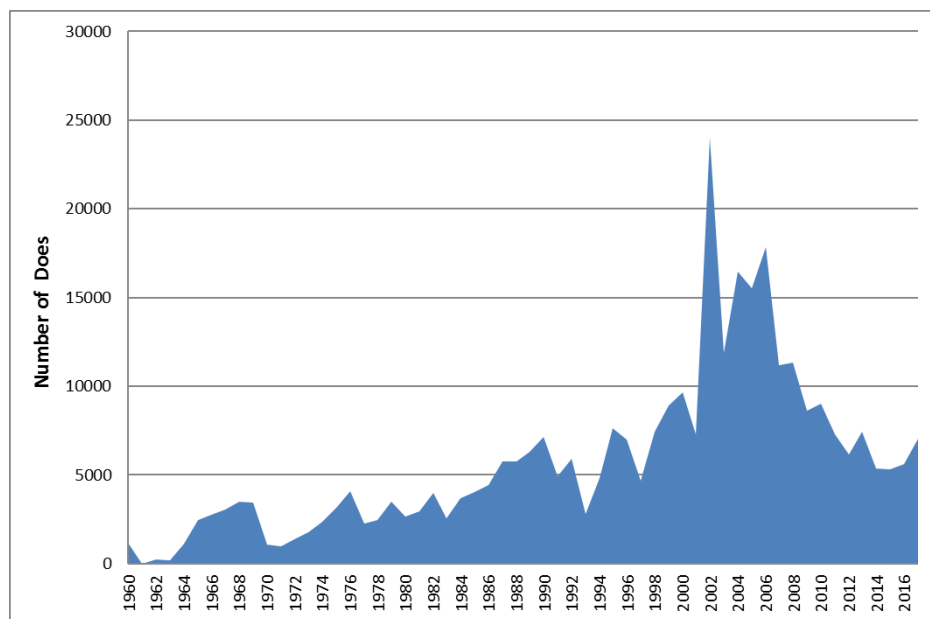
\*1997-2017

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to DNR personnel and volunteers for collecting deer age and antler data.



**Figure 1.** *The number of adult bucks aged, 1959–2017.*



**Figure 2.** *The number of adult does aged, 1960–2017.*

# Wisconsin Black Bear Harvest Report 2017

By Brian Dhuey, Scott Walter and Brad Koele

## **Abstract**

Wisconsin bear hunters killed 4,159 black bears during the 2017 season. This was 11.1% lower than the 2016 kill of 4,682 bears. The 2017 kill was comprised of 52% males and 48% females. The three leading counties of kill were Bayfield, Rusk, and Price.

## **Background**

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa hunters to obtain a bear harvest permit to kill a bear. The state is divided into four Bear Management Zones (BMZ, Figure 1), and hunters are required to apply for a permit within one of those zones. Kill permits are distributed through a preference point system giving unsuccessful applicants who applied, but did not receive a permit in previous years the first chance to receive a kill permit the following year. Each kill permit allows the taking of one adult bear not accompanied by a cub or cubs in the specified zone.

Wisconsin's bear season has opened on the first Wednesday after Labor Day since the 2000 season. The 2017 bear season ran from 6 September through 10 October (35 days). In the northern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the state (BMZ A, B and D), hunting with the use of dogs was allowed 6 September- 3 October while the use of bait was allowed during 13 September – 10 October. Hunters in the southern 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the state (BMZ C) could hunt the entire 35-day season with the use of bait and all methods not utilizing dogs.

## **Methods**

Wisconsin requires non-Chippewa bear hunters to register all bear. Historically, bear were registered at designated WDNR registration stations. Electronic registration of bear began in 2015 and continued again this year; all bear were registered through an automated telephone system or through the WDNR registrations website. To complete legal registration, all hunters were required to submit via mail an upper first premolar for age analysis. Data on bear harvested by Chippewa tribal members on ceded lands were obtained from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). All kill data are summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

A total of 112,983 people applied for a record 12,850 black bear harvest permits in 2017. The number of applicants increased by 3.4% and the number of permits increased 11.5% between 2016 and 2017 (Tables 1 and 10). A total of 12,850 permits were offered to hunters prior to the season. A statewide tetracycline mark-recapture study in 2006 and 2011 resulted in an increased population estimate from previous population estimates for the state. While bear numbers have dropped in parts of the state, the bear population has not declined in response to management actions taken in the Northwest and Southern areas of the state (Zone C and D). Quota and permits have remained high in these areas.

During the 2017 season, 12,850 hunters killed 4,159 black bears (32.4% success rate), compared to 4,682 taken in 2016. Males comprised 52% (2,163), females 48% (1,996) of the harvest (Table 2, Figure 2).

The Northern Region had the highest bear kill (3,181) followed by Northeast (495), and West Central (483, Table 2). The most bears were shot in Zone D (1,264) followed by Zones A (1,069), C (1,010), and B (816) (Table 3 and Figure 1). The five leading counties of kill were Bayfield (378), Rusk (274), Price (267), Douglas (252), and Marinette (236) (Table 4, Fig. 3). Black bear kill by game management unit can be found in Table 5 and Figure 4. Since the switch to electronic registration hunters have been remiss to record the game management unit of kill at the time of registration. While hunters have improved on providing this information every year since, kill by game management unit should be viewed with caution. This year's harvest was the seventh highest in the history of the state.

The number of bear taken over bait alone (2,654; Table 6) was greater than the number shot over dogs (1,426; includes bear shot over dogs and bait). Fifty-six bear were taken without the use of dogs or bait. Gun hunters took a total of 3,552 bear, while archers killed 382; 202 bear were killed with a crossbow (Table 6). Table 7 and Figure 5 summarize the historical Wisconsin black bear kill from 1957 through 2017.

Chippewa hunters killed 23 bear in 2017 (Tables 8); this was 22 fewer than the 45 killed in 2016. More information on the Chippewa bear kill can be obtained by contacting the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861.

A total of 747 black bear complaints were filed from January-December 2017. This was slightly less than the number of complaints (795) filed in 2016. As a result, 373 bear were captured and relocated from problem areas. This was fewer than the 585 that were moved in 2016.

Seven nuisance bear shooting permits and fifteen agricultural damage bear shooting permits were issued in thirteen different counties during the spring, summer, and fall of 2017. Two hundred seven kill tags were issued to these permit holders, the number of tags issued with each permit ranged from 1 to 15 tags. Fifty-five bear were killed under the agriculture damage shooting permits. No bear were killed on nuisance permits in 2017. In addition to agriculture damage and nuisance permits issued in 2017, eighty tags were issued with nine bear harvested under a 2-year pilot project focused on reducing bear conflicts around the Village of Grantsburg in Burnett County. The pilot project was conducted in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, forty-seven agriculture damage bear shooting permits were issued with at least one hundred eighteen bear being killed. Five nuisance bear shooting permits were issued in 2016 with no bear being killed under those permits and seventy-five tags were issued in the Village of Grantsburg pilot project in 2016, with 14 bear being harvested under those permits.

The Wisconsin corn crop was slightly behind normal crop development in 2017. This meant that some areas had corn that was still in the milk stage at the start of the bear season opening. As is usual, a predominance of natural foods during the first part of the bear hunting season may have caused bears to visit bait sites with less regularity and/or reduced bear movements. Despite the abundance of natural foods, bait stations

continued to be visited by bears with at least some degree of activity throughout much of the hunting season. Much of September saw above average temperatures and below average precipitation through much of the heart of the bear season. A particularly warm stretch came in mid-September with several days of highs in the low to mid 80's that may have limited hunter efforts and bear movements. Later in the season temperatures returned to more normal levels and precipitation events were more conducive to hunters pursuing bears. The 2017 bear kill of 4,159 was the seventh highest on record but below the WDNR harvest goal of 5,000 bears. Hunter success in 2017 was 32%, below the long-term average of 53%.

The WDNR Black Bear Advisory Committee, with support from GLIFWC, USFS, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress established a harvest goal of 4,550 bears for the 2018 season. A total of 12,970 Black Bear harvest permits will be available to hunters to achieve this goal.

**Table 1.** *Harvest goal, number of permits issued, bear kill and percent success, by zone for the 2017 black bear season.*

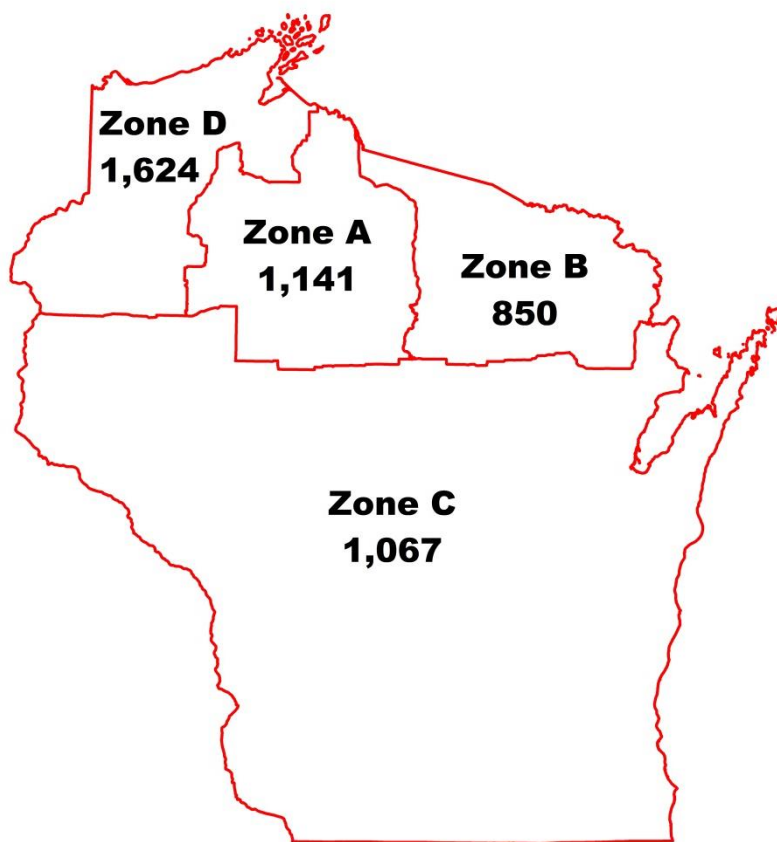
Zone	Harvest Goal	Permits Available	Black Bear Kill	% of Quota
A	1,200	1,925	1,069	89.1%
B	900	1,275	816	90.7%
C	1,300	7,050	1,010	77.7%
D	1,600	2,600	1,264	79.0%
Unknown				
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>12,850</b>	<b>4,159</b>	<b>83.2%</b>

**Table 2.** *Black bear kill by WDNR region, 2017.*

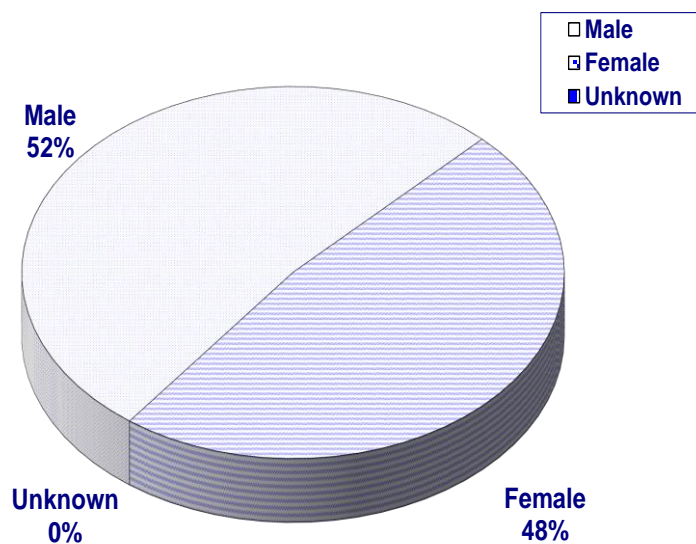
Region	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
Northeastern	269	226	0	495
Northern	1,626	1,555	0	3,181
West Central	268	215	0	483
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,159</b>

**Table 3.** *Black bear kill by zone, 2017.*

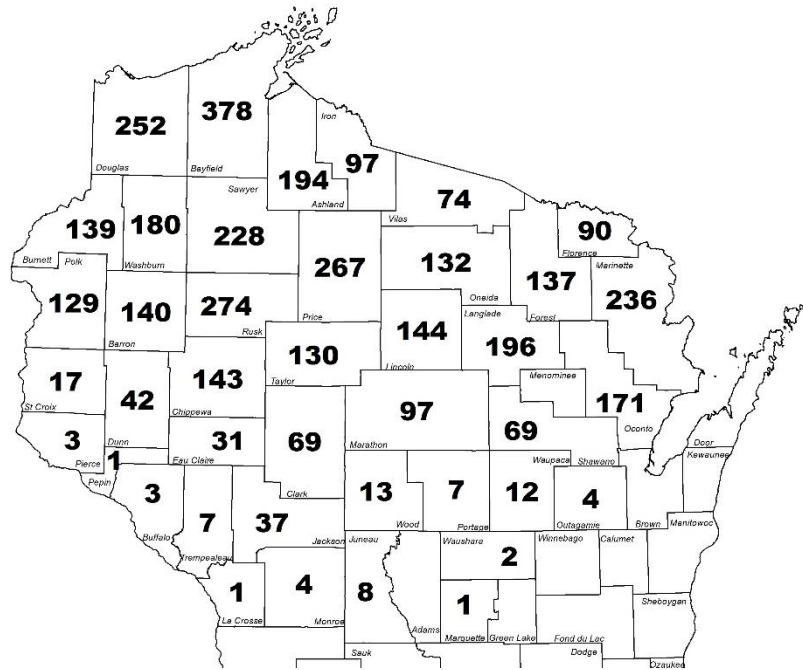
Zone	Males	Females	Unreported	Total
A	582	487	0	1,069
B	381	435	0	816
C	577	433	0	1,010
D	623	641	0	1,264
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,159</b>



**Figure 1.** *The 2017 black bear kill by zone.*



**Figure 2.** *The 2017 black bear harvest by sex.*

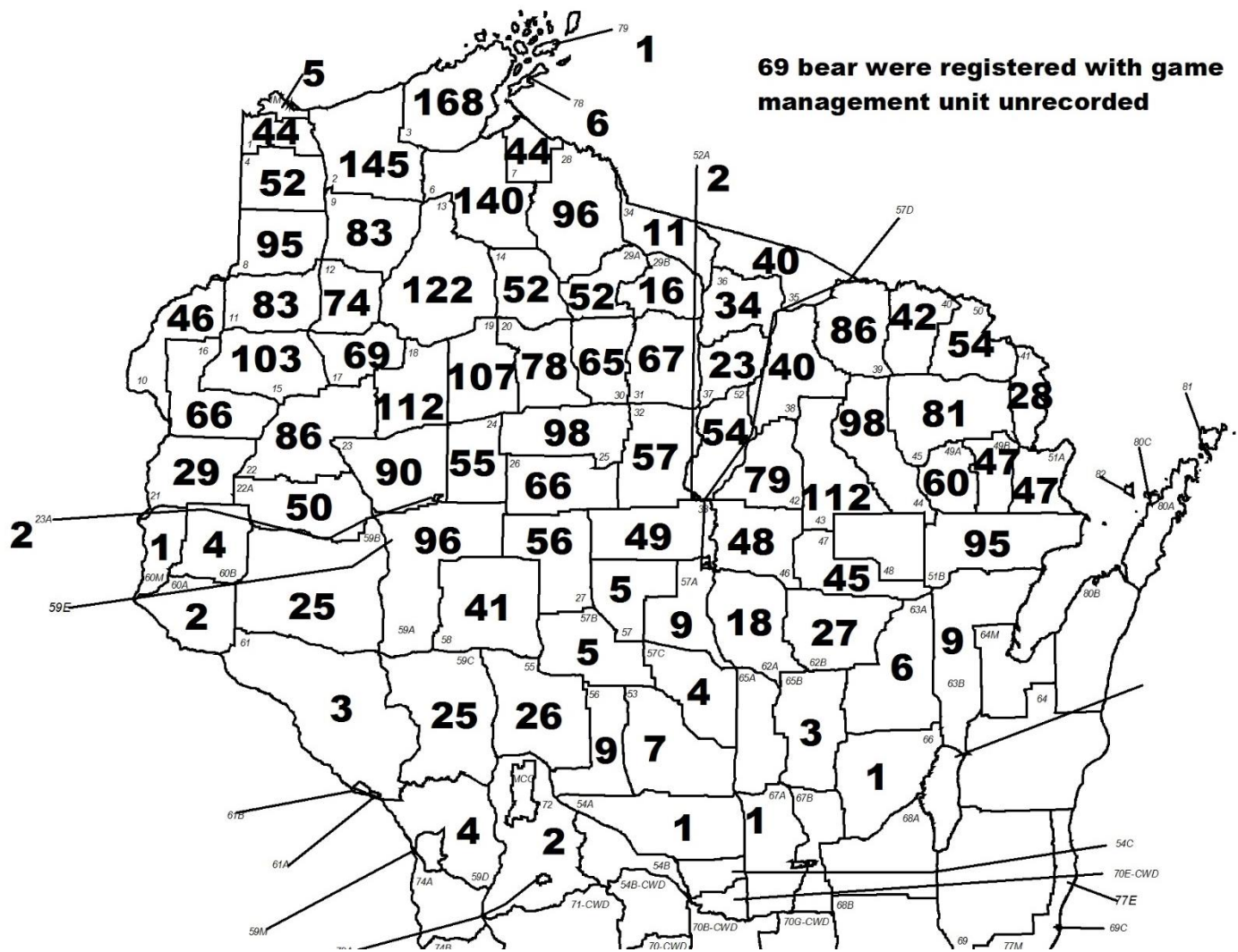


**Figure 3.** The 2017 black bear kill by county.

**Table 4.** The 2017 black bear kill by county and sex.

County	Females	Males	Total
Ashland	94	100	194
Barron	72	68	140
Bayfield	188	190	378
Buffalo		3	3
Burnett	60	79	139
Chippewa	61	82	143
Clark	34	35	69
Douglas	129	123	252
Dunn	21	21	42
Eau Claire	10	21	31
Florence	49	41	90
Forest	73	64	137
Iron	41	56	97
Jackson	16	21	37
Juneau	3	5	8
La Crosse	.	1	1
Langlade	91	105	196
Lincoln	83	61	144
Marathon	51	46	97
Marinette	98	138	236
Marquette	1		1
Monroe	1	3	4
Oconto	87	84	171
Oneida	58	74	132

County	Females	Males	Total
Outagamie	1	3	4
Pepin	.	1	1
Pierce	1	2	3
Polk	70	59	129
Portage	4	3	7
Price	111	156	267
Rusk	149	125	274
St. Croix	5	12	17
Sawyer	97	131	228
Shawano	37	32	69
Taylor	67	63	130
Trempealeau	3	4	7
Vilas	31	43	74
Washburn	92	88	180
Waupaca	1	11	12
Waushara	1	1	2
Wood	5	8	13
Total	1,996	2,163	4,159



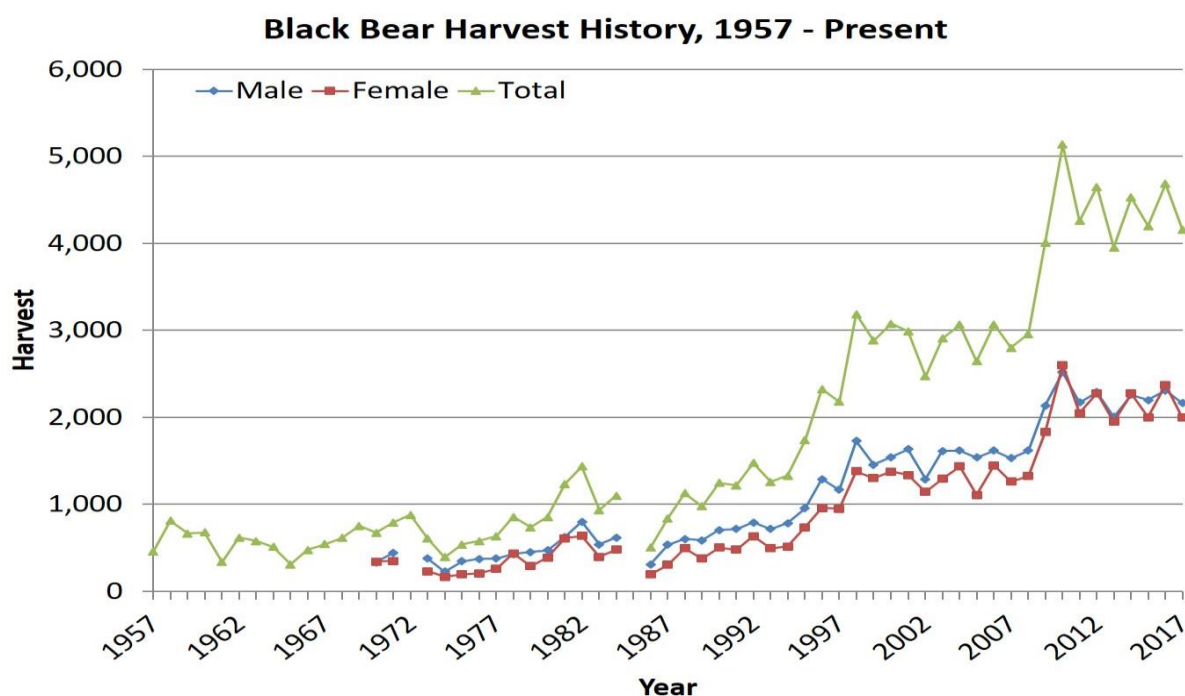
**Figure 4.** The 2017 black bear kill by game management unit.

**Table 5. The 2017 black bear harvest by game management unit and sex**

Unit	Females	Males	Total	Unit	Females	Males	Total
1	23	21	44	41	9	19	28
1M	4	1	5	42	44	35	79
2	76	69	145	43	49	63	112
3	90	78	168	44	46	52	98
4	26	26	52	45	40	41	81
6	70	70	140	46	28	20	48
7	19	25	44	47	22	23	45
8	53	42	95	49A	44	16	60
9	33	50	83	49B	22	25	47
10	17	29	46	50	24	30	54
11	35	48	83	51A	14	33	47
12	38	36	74	51B	37	58	95
13	52	70	122	52	32	22	54
14	23	29	52	52A	2		2
15	65	38	103	53	2	5	7
16	29	37	66	54A		1	1
17	41	28	69	55	13	13	26
18	60	52	112	56	4	5	9
19	48	59	107	57	1	4	5
20	36	42	78	57A	5	4	9
21	13	16	29	57B	2	3	5
22	41	45	86	57C	3	1	4
22A	22	28	50	58	17	24	41
23	40	50	90	59A	35	61	96
23A	1	1	2	59B	11	14	25
24	31	24	55	59C	12	13	25
25	44	54	98	59D		4	4
26	30	36	66	60A	1	1	2
27	31	25	56	60B	2	2	4
28	46	50	96	60M	1		1
29A	22	30	52	61		3	3
29B	7	9	16	61C		1	1
30	23	42	65	62A	11	7	18
31	24	43	67	62B	10	17	27
32	30	27	57	63A	3	3	6
33	23	26	49	63B	4	5	9
34	3	8	11	65B		3	3
35	25	15	40	66		1	1
36	13	21	34	67A	1		1
37	11	12	23	72		2	2
38	18	22	40	78	1	5	6
39	50	36	86	79		1	1
40	23	19	42	Unk	35	34	69
				<b>Total</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>4,159</b>

**Table 6.** The 2017 black bear kill by hunting method and weapon type (does not include Chippewa harvest of 23 bear).

Method	Weapon			Total
	Bow	Crossbow	Gun	
Dogs	20	12	935	967
Bait	350	178	2,126	2,654
Dogs and Bait	11	9	439	459
None	1	3	52	56
Unknown	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>3,552</b>	<b>4,136</b>



**Figure 5.** Black bear kill, 1957-2017.

**Table 7. Black bear kill by sex, 1957-2017.**

Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total	Year	Male	Female	Unk	Total
1957	---	---		460	2008	1,616	1,324	15	2,955
1958	---	---		811	2009	2,135	1,828	46	4,009
1959	---	---		665	2010	2,519	2,602	12	5,133
1960	---	---		675	2011	2,171	2,047	39	4,257
1961	---	---		337	2012	2,287	2,275	84	4,646
1962	----	---		617	2013	2,005	1,888	59	3,952
1963	---	---		579	2014	2,255	2,210	61	4,526
1964	---	---		511	2015	2,198	2,000	0	4,198
1965	---	---		308	2016	2,310	2,371	1	4,682
1966	---	---		475	2017	2,163	1,996	0	4,159
1967	---	---		541					
1968	---	---		613					
1969	---	---		752					
1970	331	341		672					
1971	444	347		791					
1972	---	---		878					
1973	376	230		606					
1974	224	166		390					
1975	344	195		539					
1976	373	206		579					
1977	375	256		631					
1978	426	436	10	872					
1979	449	288		737					
1980	469	386		855					
1981	624	610		1,234					
1982	797	636		1,433					
1983	539	395		934					
1984	617	480		1,097					
1985	No	Season							
1986	308	195		503					
1987	533	304		837					
1988	601	494	30	1,125					
1989	584	375	19	978					
1990	705	501	41	1,247					
1991	715	480	24	1,219					
1992	789	631	54	1,474					
1993	715	494	49	1,258					
1994	781	513	34	1,328					
1995	953	735	49	1,737					
1996	1,288	955	82	2,325					
1997	1,165	950	63	2,178					
1998	1,727	1,378	79	3,184					
1999	1,456	1,301	124	2,881					
2000	1,543	1,376	156	3,075					
2001	1,632	1,336	18	2,986					
2002	1,290	1,143	38	2,471					
2003	1,613	1,288	4	2,905					
2004	1,618	1,433	12	3,063					
2005	1,537	1,107	1	2,645					
2006	1,615	1,448	5	3,068					
2007	1,528	1,261	8	2,797					

**Table 8.** *The 2017 Tribal black bear kill by game management unit and sex<sup>1</sup>.*

Unit	Female	Male	Unknowns	Total
02	1	0	0	1
03	0	2	0	2
05	0	1	0	1
06	0	2	0	2
26	1	0	0	1
30	1	2	0	3
31	1	0	0	1
37	1	0	0	1
38	0	1	0	1
39	1	0	0	1
43	1	1	0	2
44	1	4	0	5
45	2	0	0	2
Total	10	13	0	23

<sup>1</sup> These data are included in the statewide totals.

**Table 9.** *The number of black bear harvest permits issued and the number of applicants, 1974-2018.*

Year	Residents	Non-residents	No. Permits Issued	No. of Applicants
1974	3,459		3,459	3,459
1975	4,116		4,116	4,116
1976	4,899		4,899	4,899
1977	5,025		5,025	5,025
1978	6,283		6,283	6,283
1979	5,612	179	5,791	5,791
1980	6,352	171	6,523	6,523
1981	7,247	241	7,488	7,488
1982	8,142	224	8,366	8,366
1983	7,077	218	7,295	7,295
1984	6,439	320	6,759	6,759
1985	Season		Closed	
1986			840	8,289
1987			1,730	10,203
1988			1,663	10,208
1989			2,020	13,734
1990			2,825	15,988
1991			2,560	17,668
1992			2,620	19,415
1993			2,110	22,555
1994			2,175	25,799
1995			2,710	30,086
1996			4,570	35,356
1997			4,700	41,969
1998			5,860	44,928
1999			6,014	50,938
2000			6,598	50,601
2001			5,681	53,508
2002			4,985	54,879
2003			4,710	56,944
2004			4,741	61,726
2005			4,549	66,777
2006			4,277	68,821
2007			4,405	80,213
2008			4,660	86,138
2009			7,310	95,384
2010			8,910	97,467
2011			9,005	103,854
2012			9,015	104,391
2013			8,560	106,573
2014			10,340	108,271
2015			10,690	109,088
2016			11,520	109,221
2017			12,850	112,983
2018			12,970	124,053

# Spring Turkey Harvest Report 2017

By Brian Dhuey and Mark Witecha

## **Abstract**

A total of 43,305 turkeys were harvested during the 2017 spring turkey hunt. The spring season was comprised of 6 hunting periods in 7 turkey management zones, and Fort McCoy. The uncorrected success rate for permit holders was 20%, based on a total of 212,456 permits issued. Hunter success rates of 20% or above occurred in 4 of the 7 major hunting zones. Highest success rates per hunting period occurred in the first period of the season. Eighty-two percent of the harvested males were adults, down from 83% in the 2016 harvest. Three hunting incidents occurred during the spring season. For all three incidents, the shooter and victim were in the same hunting party. In two incidents, they did not follow proper gun safety procedures; one of the incidents was fatal, and one incident the victim was mistaken for game.

## **Methods**

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. All turkey hunters are required to register their bird by 5:00pm the day after harvest via phone-in registration or via the WDNR website. All registered birds are given a confirmation number which the hunter must retain until the bird is consumed. Registration records were then compiled and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

### **Hunting Zones**

Wisconsin is divided into 7 Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) with similar timber, agriculture, ownership, and hunter and turkey densities (Figure 1). State parks were no longer separate management zones within the larger turkey management zone. Starting in 2015 all state parks in a turkey zone were open to all hunters who possessed a valid turkey tag for that zone and time period. Fort McCoy still allowed limited access for turkey hunting on the military base.

### **Permit Levels**

Permit levels in each zone are recommended by the WDNR Turkey Committee and decided upon by the Wildlife Policy Team. Consideration is given to the following when permits levels are set: previous hunter success rates, turkey population and distribution within a zone, square miles of turkey range (i.e., square miles of timber), recruitment, winter severity, and hunter interference rates (Table 1).

A total of 212,456 permits were issued in 2017 compared to 212,772 in 2016 and 208,250 in 2015. A total of 135,674 applications were received for the spring hunt. There were 135,330 permits issued via a drawing/preference process to these applicants by mail. A total of 344 applicants did not get a permit through the drawing process. These applicants either applied for oversubscribed zones or restricted their choices to the first 3 hunt periods where there were more applicants than permits. One zone was oversubscribed in 2017.

This was the tenth year that leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over the counter (OTC) at WDNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a

rate of one permit per customer per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued or the season closed. A total of 76,758 permits were issued this way.

#### Permit Selection

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 spring turkey permit application fee to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to resident landowners (up to 30% of permits available per zone/time period combination), followed by residents with preference points, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but applicants within each preference category were issued available permits for their first choice zone and time period before their second, third, fourth, etc. choices were considered.

#### Age Ratio

Adult gobblers comprised 82% of the 2017 spring turkey harvest (Table 2). This proportion is similar than the 2016 level of 83%. Turkey recruitment has been fairly steady with few events that may have caused major declines in the past few years. Hunters being more selective in harvesting turkeys in the spring and selecting adult Toms may have affected this ratio as well.

#### Harvest and Success Rates

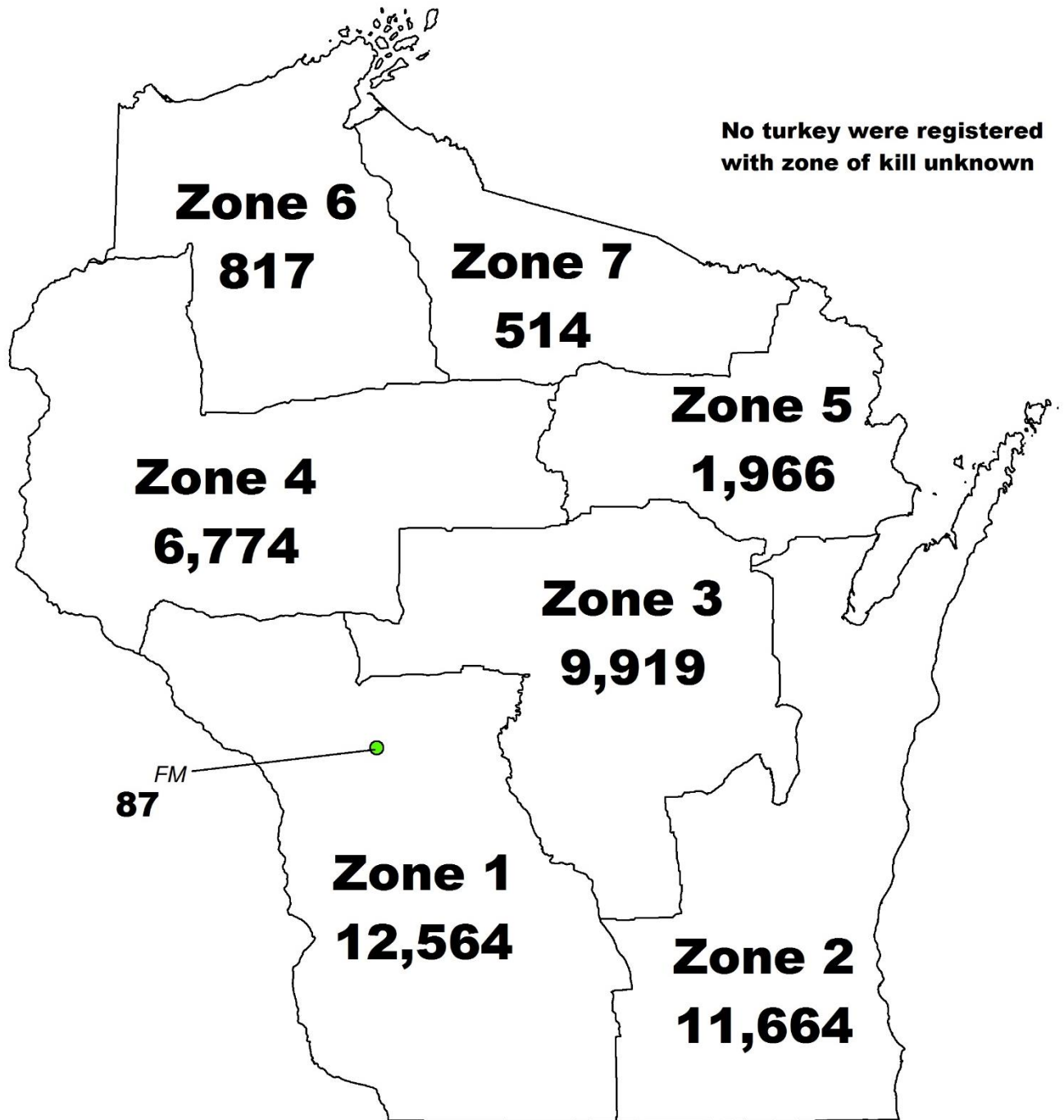
The 2017 spring turkey harvest was 43,305 birds taken (Figure 1, Table 3). This was 5% fewer than the 45,501 killed in 2016 and short of the record harvest total for the state of 52,880 take in 2008. The hunter success rate of 20% was similar to last year's 21% and close to the long-term average of 22.4%.

Good hunter success rates (defined as above 20%) occurred in 4 of the 7 main turkey zones open to spring hunting (Table 4). TMZ 1 - 4 were above 20% and had the hunter success rates of 20%, 22%, 20% and 21% respectively, while all other TMZ's were between 14-18%. The highest success rates per period occurred in the first period of the season, at 27%. The winter of 2017 was mild and ended early with spring's arrival being earlier than normal with above average temps and average rainfall. A normal weather pattern occurred for much of the spring season hunting periods. Only period B had weather that would have impeded hunter activities with 6 of the 7 days having some or all-day rains. Spring phenology may have been slightly advanced, and there may have been increased breeding behavior during the early periods.

A statewide youth turkey hunt was held for the eleventh time in the spring of 2017. A youth mentored hunting law was instituted in 2009 which allows youth ages 10 and older to hunt without a Hunter's Education card as long as they were accompanied by an 18 year or older adult. All youth ages 10-15 that had obtained a Hunter's Ed card or were a mentored hunter, and held a valid turkey permit and license were eligible to hunt. Youth were restricted to the zone of their valid turkey permit but the permit could be from any time period. The hunt occurred on the 8-9<sup>th</sup> of April, with 3,039 turkeys being harvested (Table 3). All unused permits were still valid for the zone and time period of issuance.

#### Accidents

There were three hunting accidents during the 2017 spring turkey hunt; 2 in 2016, 1 in 2015, 1 in 2014, 2 in 2013 and 3 in 2012. All three incidents were accidents where the shooter and the victim were in the same hunting party, including one fatal. One incident involved one hunter mistakenly shooting someone when they thought they were shooting at a turkey. Two were for not safely handling a firearm. Turkey hunting continues to be a very safe sport in Wisconsin with less than 3 accidents per 100,000 permits.



**Figure 1.** *Spring Turkey harvest by zone, 2017.*

**Table 1. Total number of spring turkey permits issued, 1995-2017.**

Zone	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	44,661	48,117	54,265	56,983	59,534	67,476	68,990	68,434	68,820	71,764	72,303	71,806	70,893	70,167	70,068	68,806	67,152	59,875	66,061	62,903	61,030	61,960	61,777
2	5,497	7,005	8,562	10,057	11,017	13,496	15,496	16,656	18,600	22,616	23,850	27,022	28,857	29,729	34,196	34,344	34,198	40,797	41,999	45,000	45,055	47,942	48,059
3	10,630	12,558	19,460	22,193	27,007	32,859	44,858	50,102	52,800	56,896	59,100	59,215	59,876	60,390	59,694	56,273	54,611	48,898	54,430	51,826	50,063	50,570	49,872
4	4,603	5,309	7,106	8,384	10,901	14,031	16,558	18,701	21,890	26,143	28,524	30,076	31,632	33,032	34,909	35,295	34,908	31,974	34,914	31,287	31,727	31,860	32,267
5	2,803	2,504	2,806	2,845	3,094	3,564	4,688	5,408	6,300	8,510	9,303	9,463	10,055	10,722	11,989	12,087	11,994	11,654	11,998	11,132	12,001	12,016	12,011
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	2,011	2,763	4,200	4,510	4,495	4,499	4,500	4,327	4,501	4,502	4,500
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,203	1,200	1,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	3,602	3,600	3,348	3,583	3,602	3,602
FM	235	0	449	463	463	610	555	555	0	482	510	510	510	384	398	351	325	392	296	324	290	320	368
<b>Total</b>	<b>68,429</b>	<b>75,493</b>	<b>92,648</b>	<b>100,925</b>	<b>112,016</b>	<b>132,036</b>	<b>151,145</b>	<b>159,856</b>	<b>168,410</b>	<b>186,411</b>	<b>193,590</b>	<b>200,645</b>	<b>205,034</b>	<b>208,687</b>	<b>217,854</b>	<b>214,066</b>	<b>210,083</b>	<b>201,691</b>	<b>217,798</b>	<b>210,496</b>	<b>208,250</b>	<b>212,772</b>	<b>212,456</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information**Table 2. Percent of the harvest composed of adult gobblers, 1995-2017.**

Zone	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	59	72	72	67	63	75	79	72	75	78	86	71	73	78	84	80	77	82	73	90	76	84	83
2	62	64	72	66	63	68	77	69	73	79	86	75	78	80	87	81	78	84	76	89	80	84	83
3	55	70	71	70	68	76	80	73	76	76	87	68	75	81	84	77	76	81	72	91	80	83	80
4	61	67	63	61	55	71	75	72	77	76	86	71	73	81	88	83	79	81	69	93	80	79	81
5	48	45	61	53	56	66	70	68	83	75	82	71	76	83	86	81	75	82	76	91	86	83	80
6												75	69	79	87	80	75	78	76	90	82	82	82
7												76	75	77	83	83	77	81	75	86	83	79	79
FM														89	90	85	88	79	87	90	90	79	90
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information

**Table 3. The 2017 spring turkey harvest by zone and time period.**

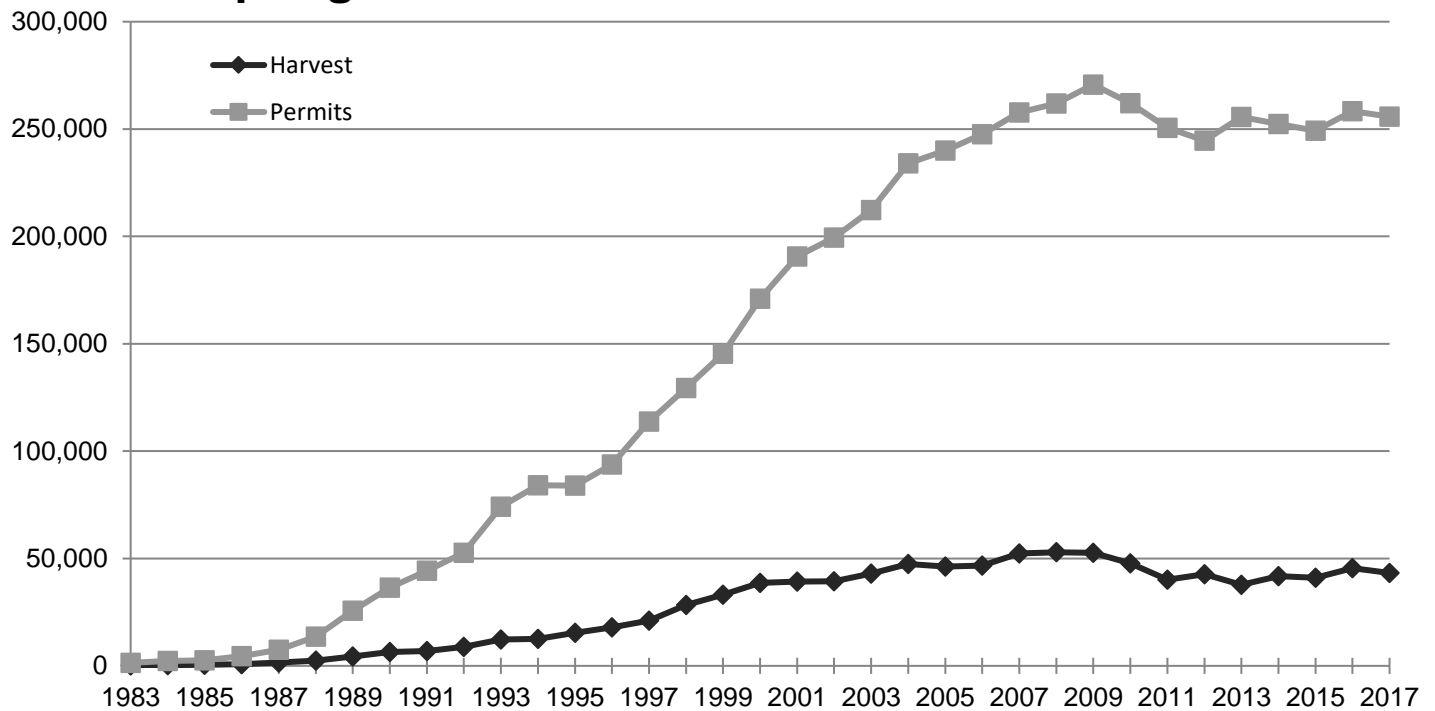
Success rates are uncorrected for nonparticipation.																
Zone	A		B		C		D		E		F		Special Hunts		Total	
	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Kill	% Success	Learn to Hunt	Youth Hunt	Kill	% Success
01	3,406	27%	2,308	19%	2,330	19%	1,998	16%	1,096	13%	430	12%	87	909	<b>12,564</b>	<b>20%</b>
02	2,340	29%	1,786	22%	1,698	21%	1,354	17%	1,508	19%	1,186	15%	65	727	<b>10,664</b>	<b>22%</b>
03	2,813	27%	1,928	18%	1,875	18%	1,366	13%	802	15%	371	15%	75	689	<b>9,919</b>	<b>20%</b>
04	1,633	28%	1,151	20%	1,028	18%	1,107	19%	735	13%	572	18%	47	501	<b>6,774</b>	<b>21%</b>
05	479	24%	358	18%	310	15%	210	10%	268	13%	178	9%	37	126	<b>1,966</b>	<b>16%</b>
06	216	29%	148	20%	124	17%	106	14%	78	10%	75	10%	14	56	<b>817</b>	<b>18%</b>
07	139	23%	104	17%	83	14%	61	10%	40	7%	55	9%	1	31	<b>514</b>	<b>14%</b>
FM	29	31%	22	31%	1	4%	11	22%	16	25%	8	13%	0	0	<b>87</b>	<b>24%</b>
Unks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,055</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>7,805</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>7,449</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6,213</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>43,305</b>	<b>20.4%</b>

**Table 4.** *Hunter success rates (percent successful) for 1994-2017.*

Zone	1995 <sup>a</sup>	1996 <sup>a</sup>	1997 <sup>a</sup>	1998 <sup>a</sup>	1999 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>a</sup>	2003 <sup>a</sup>	2004 <sup>a</sup>	2005 <sup>a</sup>	2006 <sup>a</sup>	2007 <sup>a</sup>	2008 <sup>a</sup>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	23%	24%	22%	27%	29%	28%	25%	24%	24%	24%	22%	21%	22%	23%	22%	22%	18%	20%	17%	19%	19%	22%	20%
2	21%	22%	22%	25%	29%	29%	28%	27%	32%	32%	31%	29%	28%	30%	30%	28%	25%	26%	21%	23%	23%	23%	22%
3	23%	27%	26%	31%	32%	31%	26%	24%	24%	24%	22%	22%	25%	24%	22%	19%	18%	21%	17%	20%	20%	20%	20%
4	20%	21%	22%	31%	31%	29%	28%	27%	26%	27%	26%	27%	30%	28%	28%	23%	18%	19%	15%	18%	18%	21%	21%
5	14%	14%	16%	18%	23%	26%	24%	24%	20%	22%	21%	21%	24%	25%	22%	20%	18%	19%	17%	18%	17%	17%	16%
6												28%	25%	26%	21%	19%	18%	17%	14%	13%	16%	18%	18%
7												19%	20%	22%	15%	17%	16%	16%	12%	11%	14%	14%	14%
FM Total	41%		25%	32%	32%	29%	28%	25%	0%	25%	28%	22%	24%	33%	27%	26%	20%	28%	33%	22%	24%	35%	24%
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>20%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data was compiled from "old" turkey zone information

## Spring Permits Issued and Harvest 1983-2017



**Figure 2.** Spring turkey permits issued and harvest, 1983-2017.

**Table 5.** *Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for spring turkey hunting, 1983-2017.*

Year	Permits	Harvest	Permit Success
1983	1,200	182	15.2%
1984	1,950	303	15.5%
1985	2,025	496	24.5%
1986	3,675	793	21.6%
1987	6,040	1,478	24.5%
1988	11,070	2,486	22.5%
1989	21,280	4,400	20.7%
1990	29,877	6,465	21.6%
1991	37,414	6,846	18.3%
1992	43,925	8,798	20.0%
1993	61,767	12,316	19.9%
1994	71,420	12,637	17.7%
1995	68,588	15,323	22.3%
1996	75,812	18,000	23.7%
1997	92,734	20,992	22.6%
1998	101,141	28,338	28.0%
1999	112,256	33,168	29.5%
2000	132,318	38,686	29.2%
2001	151,522	39,211	25.9%
2002	160,101	39,336	24.6%
2003	169,277	42,970	25.4%
2004	186,608	47,477	25.4%
2005	193,826	46,183	23.8%
2006	200,869	46,662	23.2%
2007	205,306	52,428	25.5%
2008	208,972	52,880	25.3%
2009	218,133	52,581	24.1%
2010	214,356	47,722	22.3%
2011	210,384	40,133	19.1%
2012	201,984	42,612	21.1%
2013	217,798	37,804	17.4%
2014	210,496	41,815	19.9%
2015	208,250	40,975	19.7%
2016	212,772	45,501	21.4%
2017	212,456	43,305	20.4%

# Fall Turkey Harvest Report 2017

by Brian Dhuey and Mark Witecha

## **Abstract**

The 2017 fall turkey season was open from 16 September through 31 December, 107 consecutive days, with no closure during the gun deer season in Turkey Management Zones (TMZ) 1-5. Turkey Management Zones 6 and 7 had a 63-day season running from 16 September through 17 November. Statewide, the number of permits available (102,550) was up from the 101,800 available in 2016. Total permits issued through a random drawing process and over-the-counter sales were 66,816. Permitted hunters harvested 3,971 turkeys for a success rate uncorrected for nonparticipation of 5.9%. This success rate was less than the 7.3% recorded last year. Turkey brood production can affect the number of birds available to harvest in fall; brood production varied across the state with more areas that saw increases than declines. While turkey numbers vary among regions, turkeys are doing well statewide with strong numbers going into the fall hunting season.

## **Methods**

Harvest information was obtained through mandatory registration of harvested turkeys. Starting in the fall of 2011, hunters were no longer required to take a harvested bird to a registration station, but instead register their bird over the phone or on the DNR website. Information collected at the time of registration was the same as in the past with hunters required to inform the WDNR of the zone, county, date of kill, sex and age of each turkey killed. Registration records were summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

## **Results**

The whole state was open to fall turkey hunting from 16 September – 16 November in 2017 (Figure 1). The fall hunting season structure was changed in 2016, with a continuous season through the 9-day gun deer season till the 31<sup>st</sup> of December in TMZ's 1-5 (in previous years the turkey season was closed during the gun deer season, but reopened on the Monday following through the 31 December). This allowed most fall turkey hunters 107 days afield to pursue turkeys. This was done to allow hunters to enjoy an extended season and increase their chances of bagging a bird. Past modern fall hunts have ranged from 7-106 days.

### **Permit Levels**

Permit levels vary depending on the spring hunting success, amount of timber, hunter interference, hunter demand, and turkey population densities and distributions within zones. With turkey numbers and spring harvest/success remaining strong in most of the state, and a high demand for permits in TMZ's 5, 6, and 7, the WDNR Wild Turkey Committee did increase the permit level for the 2017 fall season by 750 permits; 200 in TMZ 5, 300 in TMZ 6 and 7, and decreased 50 in Fort McCoy (Table 1).

### **Permit Selection**

All applicants were required to pay a \$3 fee for an application to enter the preference drawing. Preference for permits was given first to landowners (up to 30% of permits available in each zone), followed by residents who applied for but did not receive a permit in the fall of 2016, other residents, and finally non-residents. Applications were randomly selected, but first-choice zones

of all applicants within each preference category were issued available permits before second, third, choices were filled.

Like in the spring, leftover permits were sold (\$10 for resident, \$15 for non-residents) over-the-counter at DNR license sales locations on a first-come, first-served basis at a rate of one permit per day. This continued until all permits available for a zone were issued or the season closed.

A total of 54,895 permits were issued through the drawing process and another 11,921 over-the-counter for a total of 66,816. This was less than the 68,055 issued in the fall of 2016.

### Harvest and Success Rates

Fall turkey hunters registered 3,971 turkeys in the fall of 2017. This is a decrease from the 4,992 registered in the fall of 2016. Data on the historical fall turkey harvests are summarized in Table 2 and Figure 2.

Beginning in 2007, the start of the fall turkey season was moved up from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to open concurrent with the archery season in mid-September. This was done to give hunters more opportunity to hunt fall turkeys. The fall turkey season overlapped several statewide deer hunts, all hunters are required to wear blaze orange during these deer seasons. This blaze orange requirement probably had the effect of eliminating days of fall turkey hunting.

The fall hunter's success rate (percent of permits that harvested a turkey) was 5.9%, lower than the 7.3% in 2016, and lower than the previous 3 years. Fall success rates varied by zone from 4.0% to 8.3%, with the highest success rate occurring in Zone 7 (Figure 1, Table1). There are a number of factors that affect fall turkey success rates: turkey abundance, weather, other concurrent hunting seasons, permit levels and hunting techniques. As permits become more common, they may fall into the hands of the less devoted turkey hunter, primarily bow hunters who may apply for a turkey permit on the off chance that one might walk under their tree stand while bow hunting, for example. These less dedicated hunters may never go out with the sole purpose of hunting turkeys. Data from the Fall Turkey Hunter Survey indicates that approximately 30% of hunters purchasing a fall turkey permit only hunt turkeys "opportunistically" when hunting other game. Lastly, the sale of second tags to hunters could have an effect on success rates, as they may feel more "invested" in harvesting a turkey as they had to pay some amount for the permit as opposed to getting it free through the drawing process from the DNR. Fall Turkey Hunter surveys show that hunter participation has declined from an average of 73% in the 1990's and early 2000's to 67% over the past 5 years. Hunter success rates are uncorrected for non-active hunters and noncompliance, actual success rates are higher.

### Age and Sex Ratios

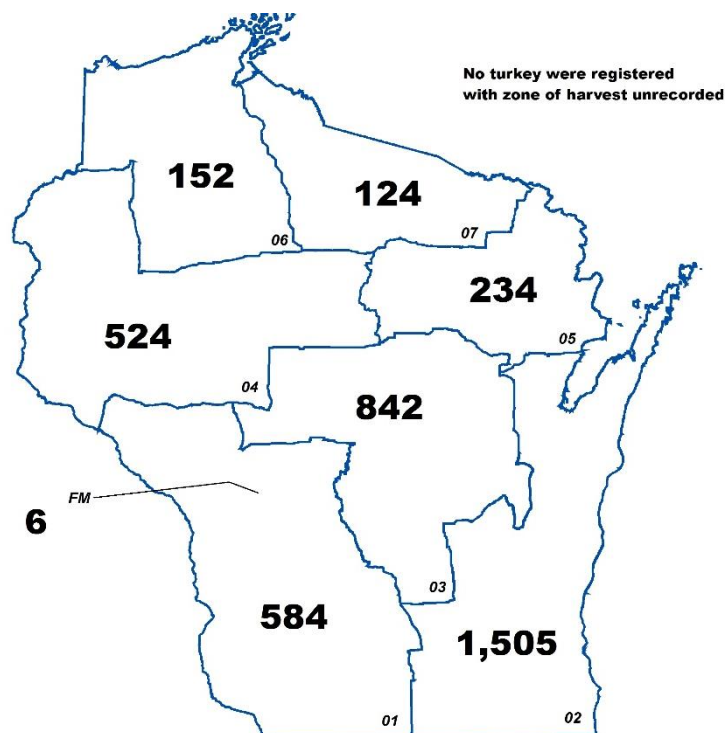
The percentage of the harvest composed of adult turkeys (75%) was similar to 2016 (70%). Females comprised 48.7% of the harvest while males accounted for 51.3%. Adult females comprised 34.2% of the fall harvest, juvenile hens 14.5%, gobblers 40.3%, jakes 10.9%. The percentage of adult males in the harvest was higher than in 2016 (35% gobblers). Adults are generally believed to be less vulnerable to fall hunting than juveniles, particularly for hens. There are probable prestige biases at work also, where hunters are reluctant to admit to killing a juvenile bird. Hunters could also be confusing jakes and juvenile hens as adult hens, or using hunting methods and selectivity toward adults. These all could be factors affecting adult to juvenile ratios.

## Accidents

There were no fall accidents during the 2017 hunting season. There have been no accidents in fall turkey hunting for nine of the last eleven years. Since fall hunting of turkeys began in 1989, there have been one fatal, and 27 non-fatal hunting accidents with an average of one per year.

**Table 1.** Turkey kill by zone, age and sex, permits issued, and permit success rate for 2017.

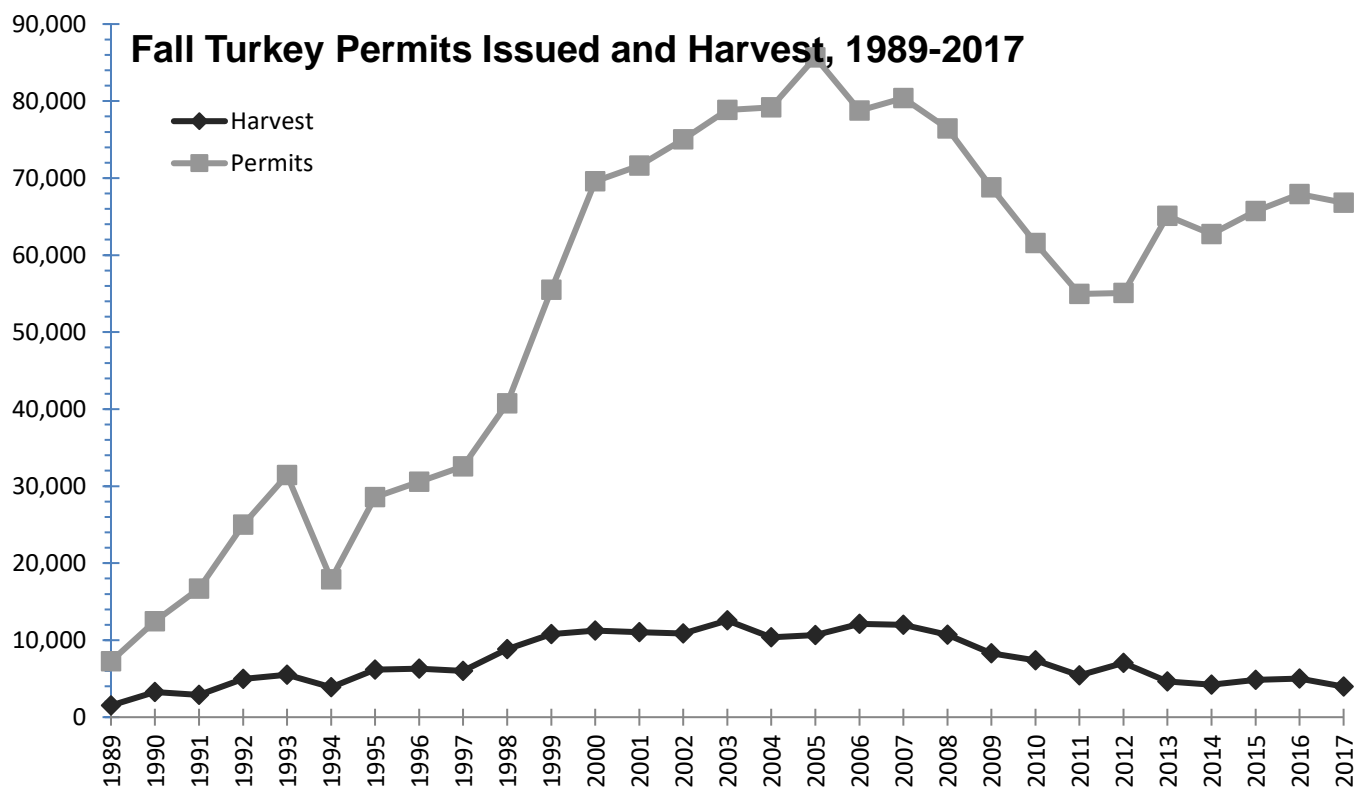
Zone	Hens	Juv. Hens	Toms	Jakes	Unks	Total Harvest	Permits Issued	% Success
1	189	94	240	61	0	584	14,574	4.0%
2	540	210	593	162	0	1,505	21,882	6.9%
3	323	130	296	93	0	842	14,048	6.0%
4	151	82	237	54	0	524	8,712	6.0%
5	69	22	116	27	0	234	4,199	5.6%
6	41	19	72	20	0	152	1,900	8.0%
7	44	19	48	13	0	124	1,500	9.3%
FM	1	1	0	4	0	6	N/A	N/A
UNK						0		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>66,816</b>	<b>5.9%</b>



**Figure 1.** Fall turkey harvest by zone, 2017.

**Table 2.** *Historical number of permits issued, harvest, and permit success for fall turkey hunting, 1989-2017.*

Year	Permits Issued	Harvest	Permit Success
1989	7,260	1,570	21.6%
1990	12,465	3,433	27.5%
1991	16,668	2,904	17.4%
1992	24,997	5,024	20.1%
1993	31,449	5,625	17.9%
1994	17,889	3,896	21.8%
1995	28,555	6,241	21.9%
1996	30,779	6,305	20.5%
1997	32,569	6,004	18.4%
1998	41,131	8,845	21.5%
1999	55,479	10,825	19.5%
2000	69,566	11,263	16.2%
2001	71,601	11,029	15.4%
2002	75,040	10,860	14.5%
2003	78,831	12,554	15.9%
2004	79,178	10,362	13.1%
2005	85,678	10,650	12.4%
2006	78,782	12,108	15.4%
2007	80,382	12,010	14.9%
2008	76,448	10,698	14.0%
2009	68,796	8,281	12.0%
2010	61,567	7,394	12.0%
2011	54,949	5,433	9.9%
2012	55,099	7,054	12.8%
2013	65,101	4,631	7.1%
2014	62,708	4,228	6.7%
2015	65,705	4,864	7.4%
2016	68,055	4,992	7.3%
2017	66,816	3,971	5.9%



**Figure 2.** *Fall turkey permits issued and harvest, 1989-2017.*

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